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*SECOND PUBLICATION*

THE  
HILDRETH FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION



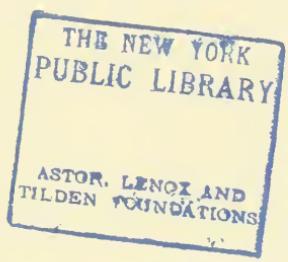
Hildreth  
Hildreth family  
APV



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SECOND PUBLICATION  
OF THE  
HILDRETH  
FAMILY ASSOCIATION







CHARLES ELBRIDGE HILDRETH, A. B.  
President of  
THE HILDRETH FAMILY ASSOCIATION

SECOND PUBLICATION  
OF THE  
**HILDRETH FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DATA

RELATING TO

RICHARD HILDRETH (1605–1693), FREEMAN, 1643  
Cambridge and Chelmsford, Mass.

THOMAS HILDRETH (died 1657), OF LONG ISLAND  
Southampton, N. Y.

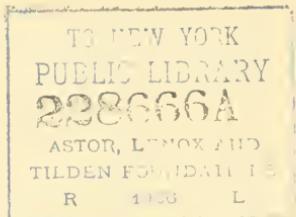
INCLUDING

A History of

THE SECOND GENERATION OF HILDRETHS  
IN AMERICA

COLLATED AND EDITED  
BY JOHN LYMAN PORTER

PUBLISHED BY  
THE HILDRETH FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
1922



## PREFACE—AND A MESSAGE

**W**E, who were recently chosen to take up the work of bringing out these Publications which The Great War stopped so suddenly six years ago, have been looking over our Association's records. Out on the Pacific Coast and here on the Atlantic, down in the South and out in the Middle West, over on Long Island and up here in New England we find, in our Hildreth Family, broken homes, broken lives and broken hearts—the aftermath of war. To all of you who have sorrowed and are sorrowing we extend our sympathy. Some of us know how you feel, for we, too, have sorrowed, and we want you to know that this Hildreth Association is really just one big Family Circle. But we also found in our Association's records those of contentment, and prosperity, and joy. And so we are glad to write to you and we are glad to send out this little book, our Second Publication, and we hope it will renew your interest in the lives and doings of our old Hildreth forefathers.

Many of the articles in this Publication were arranged and prepared for printing five or more years ago, but War activities prevented further attention. Then death took from our organization three of our Vice-Presidents, and ill health and changed circumstances caused other officers to give up their work. Mr. Porter found it impracticable, because of the War, to prosecute inquiries in England and France for genealogical or historical data that might be found over there concerning the first Hildreths; but he has made an exhaustive compilation of all the recorded history and doings so far found concerning the *second generation* of Hildreths in this country, and his compilation appears in this Publication.

Because of his important historical and philosophical writings we are publishing in this volume a short biographical account and a portrait of Richard Hildreth, the American historian who died in Italy July 10, 1865.

We are also publishing complete in this volume the three oldest known histories written regarding the Hildreths of America. These are: "History of the Family of Hildreth in

America," by Henry Austin Hildreth, written about 1853; "Origin and Genealogy of the American Hildreths," by Richard Hildreth, the historian, written in 1856; and "Daniel Hildreth's Family Record," by Daniel Hildreth, written January 1, 1867. Neither of these three old histories should be relied upon implicitly for the accuracy of the dates and statements made in them. And the same should be said regarding all of our compilations. Practically all of the matter in our possession has been contributed to our Association by our members during the past quarter of a century, none of which has been verified by the compiler or by the Publication Committee, but we are publishing it because of its great value to genealogists searching for clews and doing research work and because it is a source of satisfaction to our members who desire to trace their ancestral lines with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

And in this volume we are also publishing considerable other matter of value and interest to the antiquarian.

Already our *third publication* is in preparation, dealing principally with matters pertaining to the *third generation* of Hildreths in America; but many data are lacking, and we hope our members will continue to furnish us with all the facts they possess, whether few or many, concerning what they know or hear about our old Colonial forefathers.

CHARLES E. HILDRETH,  
HENRY A. HILDRETH,  
MRS. ALICE HILDRETH PRICHARD,  
*Committee on Publication.*

Worcester, Mass.  
1922.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Beginning with this volume our Publications will be double-paged. That is, they will be paged as usual at the top, but at the bottom the pages of each new Publication will begin where the previous one left off. This is done for convenience in indexing later on after four or five volumes have been issued.

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THEODORE A. HILDRETH, <i>ex officio</i>	Boston, Mass.

HILDRETH FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNIONS  
(1917-1922)

*(Continued from First Publication)*

8th. The Eighth Reunion was held in Boston, April 28, 1917, Saturday, at Hotel Bellevue; thirty-seven present. Address was read on Abel Hildreth by Henry G. Hildreth. Address was read on Hildreth Family of Haverhill by David M. Hildreth.

9th. The Ninth Reunion was held in Boston, May 22, 1919, at Hotel Thorndike; twenty-six present. Address was by the President, Dr. John L. Hildreth, covering what had been accomplished by the Association during the 25 years of his Presidency.

10th. The Tenth Reunion was held in Boston, May 1, 1920, Saturday, at Hotel Brunswick; thirty-four present. The address was on Abijah Edwin Hildreth, by Stanley B. Hildreth.

11th. The Eleventh Reunion was held in Boston, June 3, 1921, Friday, at Hotel Brunswick; twenty present. Address was by Alfred H. Hildreth, covering data compiled by Dr. John L. Hildreth, President Emeritus, with reference to the Hildreth coat of arms.

12th. The Twelfth Reunion was held at Westford, Mass., June 24, 1922, on Saturday; forty-seven present. Address by Mr. McIvor on life and activities of Judge Spalter. Address by David M. Hildreth on his branch of the Family.





RICHARD HILDRETH  
AMERICAN HISTORIAN, JOURNALIST, NOTED ABOLITIONIST

BORN JUNE 28, 1807, DEERFIELD, MASS.  
DIED JULY 10, 1865, FLORENCE, ITALY

## RICHARD HILDRETH, THE HISTORIAN (1807-1865)

By John Lyman Porter

In compiling these data concerning the life and work of Richard Hildreth, the eminent journalist and American historian, I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to his son's widow—Mrs. Arthur Hildreth, of Boston,—who has generously aided me in my efforts with material and references in her possession and with sources of information which I could not otherwise have obtained. I am also indebted to Mrs. John Hildreth McCollom, of Boston, for the loan of a manuscript written in 1907 giving intimate information concerning Richard Hildreth and his family. And I am further indebted for material found in sketches and articles published in the following books and papers: Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Passages from American Note-Books" (1850), New York *Evening Post* (1855), Boston *Journal* (1865), Winsor's "Memorial History of Boston" (1881), Aldrich's "Life and Times of Azro B. F. Hildreth" (1891), and Edward Everett Hale's "Memories of One Hundred Years" (1902).

J. L. P.

RICHARD HILDRETH, whose name is carved on the granite walls of our Boston Public Library, the noted abolitionist, publicist, novelist, journalist, effective contributor to the New York *Tribune*, American historian and United States Consul under President Lincoln to Trieste and all the Austrian ports on the east shore of the Adriatic, was born in the old town of Deerfield, Mass., June 28, 1807, and died in Florence, Italy, July 10, 1865. His parents were the Reverend Hosea and Sarah (MacLeod) Hildreth. He married Miss Caroline Negus, of Petersham, Mass., an artist in oils, water colors and crayon. His father was a graduate of Harvard College in the Class of 1805. During Richard's fourth year the father removed with his family to Exeter, N. H., the seat of Exeter Academy, where the son was fitted for college.

Richard Hildreth was graduated at Harvard College in the Class of 1826, where he proved himself a successful student of the prescribed course without, however, confining himself

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strictly to it. Besides extensive reading and research work in history, political economy and ethics, he became familiar with the whole body of Greek and Latin authors in their original language.

The first articles written by him for publication appeared in 1824 in *The Columbian Sentinel* when he was scarcely seventeen and two years before his graduation at Harvard. Soon after his graduation he entered the law office of Theophilus Parsons, of Newburyport, Mass. (who later became Dane Professor in the Law School of Cambridge). During Mr. Hildreth's residence at Newburyport he contributed several articles to the Newburyport and Salem papers, but his literary life may be said to have taken its actual commencement in a series of articles contributed in 1828-9 to *The Ladies Magazine*, a periodical then lately started in Boston by Mrs. Sarah J. Hale. These articles were followed by contributions to Willis's (Boston) *American Monthly*, and later by contributions to Joseph T. Buckingham's *New England Magazine*. These miscellaneous compositions are all worthy of republication.

In 1830 Richard Hildreth was admitted to the bar. While practicing law in Boston, in July, 1832, he was made associate editor, and later became editor-in-chief, of the Boston *Atlas*, the exponent or organ of Rufus Choate, Caleb Cushing and other rising young politicians who were then associated together. The several years of Mr. Hildreth's connection with this new daily gave it a powerful influence among the political journals of New England. It was a strong Whig paper, and in its editorial utterances Hildreth was decided, vigorous and caustic, and as quick and destructive as lightning in dealing with antagonists. Political affiliations were sharply drawn and held in those days. Edward Everett Hale, in his "Memories of One Hundred Years," says:

"Richard Hildreth . . . lived in Boston, and I should have known him personally, but that he was editor of the *Atlas* which was the rival daily to the *Advertiser* which was in my family."

In the autumn of 1834 ill health compelled him to take residence on a plantation in the South, where he remained for about a year and a half studying slavery conditions at close range and writing "Archy Moore," the forerunner of anti-slavery novels, which story was subsequently republished

in 1852 in an enlarged form under the title of "The White Slave" and as such was widely read in this country and in Europe where ten or more editions were printed and translations made into many languages. During the summer of 1836 he employed himself in translating from the French of Dumont a work, published in 1840 at Boston in two volumes, under the title of "Bentham's Theory of Legislation." And in the same year he wrote his "History of Banks and Banking." Passing the winter of 1837-8 in Washington as editorial correspondent of the Boston *Atlas* he returned to the editorial chair a warm supporter of the election to the Presidency of General Harrison, of whom he wrote an electioneering biography which appeared in pamphlet form.

Abandoning journalism he next published in 1840 his "Despotism in America," to which work he subsequently added (in 1854) a chapter on "The Legal Basis of Slavery," embracing the substance of two articles written by him for Theodore Parker's short-lived *Massachusetts Review*. Then followed (in 1840) his letters to Andrews Norton, the Unitarian theologian of Cambridge, on "Miracles as the Foundation of Religious Faith," and other controversial pamphlets on various speculative topics. In this year, 1840, and again for the benefit of his health, he was obliged to resort to a warmer climate, this time going to British Guiana. During a three years' residence at Demerara he acted successively as editor of two newspapers published in Georgetown, the capital of the country, and also found time to write his "Theory of Morals," published in 1844, and his "Theory of Politics," published in 1853 by Harper Brothers. These treatises will amply repay perusal; they were made from the American standpoint and can be looked upon as the most original contributions which this country had then furnished on the topics treated. The outcry against them made by the *North American Review* and by *Bronson's Quarterly*, now admittedly not so much criticism as abuse, established his position high among the great thinkers and writers on questions of ethics and politics.

But the public was too little interested in his speculative inquiries, and he turned his attention to completing his "History of the United States"—a work which he had projected as far back as his life in college. This afforded him constant occupation for seven years, during which time he

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wrote little else with the exception of a few articles for Theodore Parker's *Massachusetts Quarterly Review*. The first volume was issued by Harper Brothers in 1849, and the entire work, in six volumes, in the course of three succeeding years. Edward Everett Hale said of this work: "The country owes a great deal to Richard Hildreth for . . . his 'History of the United States.'"

This elaborate history, which covers the period beginning with the settlement of the country and concluding with the end of President Monroe's first term, has established for its author a prominent and permanent place among American historians. He has in this work embodied the matured results of long-continued and exhaustive labor, carried on by a mind adapted to historical inquiry, acute, comprehensive and endowed with an inflexible honesty of purpose. In his portraiture of political men he is impartial in his austere comments; no popular canonization of the offender avails against the severity of his criticisms, as for examples his reflections upon the lives and characters of Jefferson, Madison, John Adams and J. Q. Adams. But to the memories of Washington and Hamilton he pays uniform and deserved homage.

In 1855 he published his "Ruins of Jamaica" and completed his "Japan as It Was and Is." This latter work, although first published more than sixty years ago, still gives the best pictures of Japan as seen by various travelers from that time to the present. The work has more recently been edited, reprinted, illustrated, annotated and indexed. In 1856 appeared his "Lives of Atrocious Judges," a book written at the height of the anti-slavery excitement and, to quote from its preface, a work "prepared in the interest of justice and freedom." In 1860 he wrote "Japan and the Japanese," a companion book to his "Japan as It Was and Is," rich in original documents and narrative and woven together with his inimitable skill and grace.

While writing his later works his health became undermined and entirely gave way. This was followed by severe attacks of mental depression to which he had always been subject. Partially recovering his health he received, in 1861, from President Lincoln in recognition of his writings and labors against slavery the appointment of United States Consul to Trieste, and under the sunny skies of Italy with





GRAVE IN FLORENCE, ITALY  
OF  
**RICHARD HILDRETH**  
AMERICAN HISTORIAN AND JOURNALIST  
DIED JULY 10, 1865

Showing the stone erected by Harper Brothers,  
New York, N. Y., as a token of their esteem

( From a photograph taken by Mrs. Alice Hildreth Prichard )

his wife and son he for a time recovered a good measure of his former health. But it gave way again under the pressure of his official duties and his continued literary labors, and during the summer of his last year it completely broke down. He recovered consciousness for a time but only to sink gradually away, dying July 10, 1865, at Florence. He was buried there in the Protestant Cemetery, his grave being near that of his old friend Theodore Parker, the noted opponent of pro-slavery sentiments. The stone marking his grave was erected by Harper Brothers as a token of their esteem. His wife survived him about two years, dying in Naples, Italy, August 18, 1867. His son, Arthur Hildreth, then about seventeen years old, remained a short time in Italy and then returned to this country.

Richard Hildreth did much of his literary work in the library of the Boston Athenaeum. In his day it was the scholars' retreat. And today when one seats himself at a table in the old reading room he feels the intimate atmosphere of famous men. Here came George Bancroft, William H. Prescott, William Ellery Channing, Rufus Choate, Daniel Webster, Nathaniel Hawthorne and many more. Nathaniel Hawthorne, in his "Passages from American Note-Books," under date of May 5, 1850, writes of him as follows:

"Yesterday I went to the Athenaeum. . . . The library is a noble hall and looks splendidly with its vista of alcoves.

"The most remarkable sight, however, was Mr. Hildreth writing his History of the United States. He sits at a table at the entrance of one of the alcoves with his books and papers before him as quiet and absorbed as he would be in the loneliest study, now consulting an authority, now penning a sentence or paragraph, without seeming conscious of anything but his subject. It is very curious thus to have a glimpse of a book in the process of creation under one's eye. I know not how many hours he sits there, but while I saw him he was a pattern of diligence and unwandering thought. He had taken himself out of the age and put himself, I suppose, into that about which he was writing. Being deaf, he finds it much easier to abstract himself. Nevertheless, it is a miracle. He is a thin, middle-aged man, in black, with an intelligent face, rather sensible than scholar-like."

The New York *Evening Post* (May 14, 1855) wrote:

"Though not wealthy Mr. Hildreth is truly a fortunate man, and few men take greater enjoyments from their domestic relations. In stature he is small, of slim, wiry figure, and a nervous organiza-

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tion. It is easy to recognize, in his sharply-defined features, the habitually resolute, independent expression which is so in keeping with his character and the tone of his writings."

Hon. Azro B. F. Hildreth, deceased, the oldest newspaper editor in the United States at the time of his death, wrote in 1891, viz.:

Richard Hildreth had "fine qualities of head and heart, and a sweetness of nature that called forth sympathy and love from his friends."

The following, arranged chronologically, is a

### PARTIAL LIST OF RICHARD HILDRETH'S PUBLISHED WRITINGS

1824 Articles in *The Columbian Sentinel*.

1827-8 Articles in Newburyport and Salem newspapers.

1828-9 A series of articles in *The Ladies Magazine*, a new publication started in Boston by Mrs. Sarah J. Hale.

1830 A series of articles in Willis's *American Monthly*.

1831 Abridged History of the United States. 12mo.

1831-2 Articles in Joseph T. Buckingham's *New England Magazine*.

1832-3-4-5-6-7-8 Articles in the *Boston Atlas*. Mostly editorials.

1833 Report of the Trial of E. K. Avery.

1836 Archy Moore. 12mo.

1837 Banks and Banking. 12mo.  
Newspaper articles opposing the annexation of Texas.  
Criticism of Beecher's "Essay on Slavery."

1838 Biography of General Garrison. 18mo.

1838 An Important Whig Meeting.

1840 Bentham's Theory of Legislation. (Translation.) In 2 vols. 12mo.  
Despotism in America. 12mo.  
The Contrast—W. H. Garrison vs. M. Van Buren.

Letters to Andrews Norton on "Miracles as the Foundation of Religious Faith."

Letters to Emery Washburne, and 79 others, on "Dissentients of Religious Faith."

Articles in *The Spy*.

1840-1 Editorial Articles in the *Guiana Chronicle*.

1840-1-2 Editorial articles in the *Royal Gazette* of Demerara.

1842 Historical Sketch of British Guiana. 12mo.

1844 Theory of Morals. 12mo.  
What Can I Do for the Abolition of Slavery?  
Open Letter to O. A. Bronson, of *Bronson's Quarterly*, and Editor of the *North American Review* in which the Editor is proved to be no Christian and little better than an atheist.

1847 Sixty Years Hence.

1849-52 History of the United States. 6 vols. 8vo.

1852 The White Slave. (Archy Moore enlarged.) 12mo.  
 1852-3 Articles in *The Commonwealth*.  
 1853 Theory of Politics. 12mo.  
 1854 The Legal Basis of Slavery. The substance of two articles which appeared in Theodore Parker's *Massachusetts Review*.  
 1854 Despotism in America. (Enlarged edition.) 12mo.  
     Supplement to Pictorial Geography. 8vo.  
     Articles in *Harpers Magazine*.  
 1854-5-6 Articles in *New York Tribune*.  
 1855 Articles in *Putnam's Magazine*.  
     Ruins of Jamaica.  
     Japan as It Was and Is. 12mo.  
     Atrocious Judges. 12mo.  
     Emancipation in America.  
 1856 Origin and Genealogy of the American Hildreths.  
 1860 Japan and The Japanese.  
 1861-2-3-4 Consular Reports to the United States of his official duties at Trieste.

Also the following historical writings, a partial list, which is arranged neither alphabetically nor chronologically—namely:

History of the Christian Religion.  
 Observations upon Universal History.  
 Religious Freedom in America.  
 History of the British West Indies.  
 China as Seen and Known by Europeans.  
 The Oriental Archipelago.  
 Six Great Voyages Around the World.  
 The Colonial Charters.  
 The New England Union.  
 Relations of New England and New Netherlands.  
 Indian Relations of New England.  
 Settlements on the Coast of Maine.  
 Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.  
 The Colonial Legislation of Virginia and New England.  
 The Virginia Company.  
 The Commonwealth Party in Virginia and Maryland.  
 Bacon's Rebellion.  
 John Smith in Virginia and New England.  
 John Smith among the Troops.  
 William Penn's American Relations.  
 The Carolina Company.  
 Slavery in New England, Virginia and Maryland.  
 The New England Historians.  
 Massachusetts Major Generals.  
 The Military Army of New England.  
 New England Military Heroes.  
 Military Workers of New England.

## 18 THE HILDRETH FAMILY ASSOCIATION

In addition to his many historical writings he wrote numerous American biographies, including the lives of the Presidents: Washington, John Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, J. Q. Adams, Jackson, and Harrison and Taylor. Vice-Presidents: Burr, Clinton, Gerry, Tompkins, Calhoun, and Johnson. Statesmen: Hamilton, Clay, and Webster.

His other works on religious and philosophical subjects include:

The Life of Jesus.

Life of Milton.

Lives of English Free Thinkers.

Lives of French Free Thinkers.

Lives of Voltaire and Rousseau.

Letters on the Old Testament.

Letters on the New Testament.

Theory of the Jewish Scriptures.

Theory of the Christian Scriptures.

History and Reputation of the Mystical Philosophy.

Also treatises and essays upon: Human Nature, Taste and Custom, Rich Men, Great Men, Knowledge, Morals, Childhood, Marriage, Life, Politics, Legislation, Government, Jurisprudence, and many other subjects.

Among his miscellaneous writings are numerous essays and treatises and letters in pamphlet form; also original manuscripts. Twenty or more titles of his miscellaneous writings have been listed and are found, some in Harvard College Library, some in the Boston Athenaeum, and others are bound and owned privately.

Richard Hildreth was a great man, a great thinker, a great writer and—lovable. He deserved the honor which before and since his death, has been bestowed upon him and his work.

JOHN LYMAN PORTER.

Cambridge, Mass.

1917.

## ORIGIN AND GENEALOGY OF THE AMERICAN HILDRETHS

By Richard Hildreth (the Historian)

NOTE: The following letter, written more than sixty years ago, is reprinted here to show the exceptional judgment of its author in his theories and suppositions concerning the origin and genealogy of the American Hildreths, which theories and suppositions have since been proven remarkably correct.

JOHN LYMAN PORTER.

New York, April 2, 1856.

D. M. Hildreth, Esq.,  
New Orleans.

Dear Sir:

Several months since I received a letter from you, addressed to me at Boston, seeking such information as I might be able to give as to the genealogy of the Hildreth family.

You were probably right in conjecturing that I was the person best able to gratify your curiosity on that subject, and, to the extent of my power, I take great pleasure in doing so; especially as it forces me to do what I had sometime since set down as a thing to be done,—putting on paper such facts as I have been able to ascertain as to the origin and history of those who bear the name of Hildreth.

The Hildreths may be fairly reckoned among the earliest settlers who migrated from England to North America. Those of New England, whence there are now offshoots in several of the western, and, in your case, as I conjecture, in at least one of the southern states, are probably, as you suppose, all descended from a single ancestor,—one Richard Hildreth, whose name I bear, and from whom I am the sixth in descent.

The first notice of this Richard Hildreth (or Hildrick, Heildrich, Heildrith, as the name is variously spelt in the old colonial records) is his admission, May 10th, 1643, (that is, within fifteen years after the grant of the Massachusetts charter, and when he was himself thirty-five years old,) as a

## 20 THE HILDRETH FAMILY ASSOCIATION

freeman of the colony of Massachusetts Bay. How much earlier he had emigrated to the colony does not appear. It seems probable that he settled first at Woburn, about ten miles N. W. of Boston, which first became a separate town in 1642, having till then constituted the upper or inland part of Charlestown. At least his name appears among several inhabitants of Woburn, and of Concord, as one of the petitioners to the General Court of Massachusetts Bay for a new township to be granted them on the south bank of the Musketuguid or Concord rivers, at the junction of which, as the petitioners allege, "they do find a comfortable place to accomodate a company of God's people upon." This township was accordingly granted, settled, and organized, in 1654, under the name of Chelmsford; including not only the present territory bearing that name, but the neighboring town of Westford, and also what is now the city of Lowell, or, at least, the main part of it west of the Concord river. This petition, with the names of the signers, may be found at length in Allen's "History of Chelmsford."

It appears by the records of the town of Chelmsford, which I have examined, but which are no longer in perfect state, that Richard Hildreth received grants of eight separate lots of land, amounting in the whole to one hundred and five acres, of which seventy-seven were upland and twenty-eight meadow,—quite a fair allotment, according to the frugal usages of those times. However, he was not entirely satisfied, as he appears on the records of the Great and General Court as a petitioner for an additional grant, touching which the entry is found on the records of 1664: "In answer to the petition of Richard Hildreth of Chelmsford, humbly craving the favor of this Court to consider his necessitous condition, and grant him some land, this court judgeth it meet to grant him one hundred and fifty acres of upland and meadow when it may conveniently be found not prejudicial to any other plantation" and, by an entry in 1669, it appears that this land was laid out, bounded with the Concord line on the S. E., by Captain Daniel Gookin's farm northerly, and by the wilderness surrounding.

This Richard Hildreth lies buried in the ancient graveyard of Chelmsford, three or four miles from the city of Lowell. I distinctly remember having had his gravestone pointed out to me by my father some thirty-five or forty

years ago, and having read the inscription upon it, but it is no longer in existence. It is stated in a biographical notice of Dr. S. P. Hildreth, of Marietta, Ohio, contained in a sketch of early Ohio physicians, that according to this gravestone, Richard Hildreth was born in 1612, (Reg. III 142,) but according to the record in my father's family Bible, which, I have no doubt, was copied from the stone itself, he was born in 1605.

Where he married his wife Elizabeth, whether in England or in New England, does not appear, nor what her maiden name was; but it would seem that he had children either by her, or most likely, perhaps by a former wife, before his removal to Chelmsford, one of whom I take to be James Hildreth, of whom there is occasional mention in the Chelmsford records, who was admitted freeman of the colony in 1665. It is possible, however, that this James Hildreth was not the son of Richard, but his brother, or some other less near relation.

Ephraim Hildreth, whose name also occurs in the Chelmsford records, I take to have been another son of Richard, but whether born at Chelmsford does not appear. The Chelmsford records distinctly designate as children of Richard born in that town: Joseph, born April 16, 1658; Persis, Feb. 8, 1659; Thomas, Feb. 1, 1661; Isaac, July, 1663.

Richard Hildreth died (according to my father's record, copied, I doubt not, from the gravestone) in 1688, aged 83. Another Richard, the son of James, died Feb. 22, 1692. Joseph Hildreth, son of the first Richard, through whom I trace my descent, married, Dec. 12, 1683, Abigail Wilson of Woburn. He died Jan. 28, 1706, aged 48, leaving among other children, a son, also named Joseph, born November 30, 1695, and who died at Westford in the winter of 1780, aged 85.

This second Joseph, grandson of Richard the founder of the family, was the father of my grandfather, Timothy Hildreth, who was the youngest son of a large family of children by two successive wives, being born, in his father's old age, at Westford, Dec. 31, 1756. Timothy, not yet twenty years of age, was sent to aid in the siege of Boston, with his father's team of oxen, and was one of the party employed in transporting the fascines to Dorchester Heights, out of which were constructed the fortifications by means of which the British were driven out of Boston. The night was

dark, and the road very heavy, but not a word could be spoken to the oxen, strict silence being enjoined on the teamsters, and a sentinel marching by the side of each to enforce it. The wheels stuck deep in the mud, and my poor grandfather, according to his own account, as related to me by my father, could not help shedding tears of vexation—all the Hildreths, so far as I have known them, being a rather sensitive set—at the predicament in which he found himself. The tin lantern which he carried on that occasion was long preserved in the family, but, I am sorry to say, is no longer to be found.

Declining any further military service, as he was not a fighting character, my grandfather returned home to Westford, and very shortly after married his cousin, Hannah Hildreth, the daughter of Zachariah Hildreth, also of Westford, but whose descent I am not able distinctly to trace. You will see by this, that on the father's side I have a double descent from the Chelmsford or Westford Hildreths.

At Westford there still remain, as I understand (for I have not visited the place since childhood), some respectable representatives of the name still clinging to the spot where the family first took root in New England, and engaged in the old ancestral business of farming, which, till quite a recent period, seems to have been the general occupation of all of that name, whether in England or America.

From these Westford Hildreths, no doubt—though I am not able to trace the connection—came Major Ephraim Hildreth, who appears to have been among the earliest settlers of Dracut, on the north bank of the Merrimac river, opposite the present city of Lowell. He had eight sons: Ephraim, Josiah, William, Levi, Zachariah, Robert, Thomas, and Elijah. One of these sons, I have been informed, migrated to the then district of Maine, and the Hildreths of that state, of whom I believe there are some, are probably most of them his descendants. Another son, William, served throughout the whole Revolutionary War, returning with the rank of lieutenant; he returned to Dracut, and was afterwards high sheriff of the County of Middlesex. The only representatives of this family now left at Dracut are, I believe, Dr. Israel Hildreth, now at an advanced age, a son Elijah the youngest of Major Ephraim's sons, and a nephew and a son of his with two or three daughters. The son, A. F. Hildreth, Esq., is the present postmaster of Lowell.

And here may I observe, that although many of the Hildreths have had large families, yet the name is borne by comparatively few persons, the increase of numbers being, by no means, so large as might have been expected, and as has taken place with many other names.

Another offshoot of the family, the fifth in descent from the original Richard, was Dr. Benjamin Hildreth,—I believe that was the name—who settled in Methuen, adjoining Dracut on the east, where he practiced as a physician. He was the father of Dr. S. P. Hildreth, who removed to Ohio, and settled in Marietta, where he became well known as a physician, a naturalist, and a contributor to the history of Ohio. He is the author of various publications, and is now at an advanced age. A younger brother of his, Charles T. Hildreth, graduated at the Cambridge Medical College in 1824, and settled in Boston, where he died.

A brother of old Dr. Hildreth of Methuen settled, I have understood, in Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, and was the first person to plant the name in that state. Another brother established himself at Concord, Mass., and, during the Revolutionary War, was a contractor for supplying the army with clothing. One of his sons, Benjamin W. Hildreth, graduated at Harvard College in 1805, and afterwards settled as a physician in Marlborough, near Concord. My father was also a member of that same class of 1805, and these were the first two persons of the name, so far as I know, who ever received a college education. There are descendants of this Concord family still residing there, and others scattered elsewhere.

My grandfather emigrated to Vermont, and there cut a farm for himself out of the woods; but he soon returned to Massachusetts, and passed the larger part of his life in Sterling, Worcester County. My father, Hozea, was one of a family of ten children, and the third son. An accident to one of his arms, which incapacitated him for farm labor, caused him to turn his attention to study. He was for many years connected as an instructor with Phillips Academy, at Exeter, N. H., preaching, however, occasionally, which was his favorite employment, and finally became minister of the old Congregational Society in Gloucester, Mass. He is the only clergyman of the name that I have heard of. His next brother, Ezekiel, followed his example in going to college.

He graduated at Cambridge in 1814, and finally established himself as a teacher in Wheeling, Virginia, where he married a daughter of Zane (from whom Zanesville in Ohio is named). One of his sons is, I understand, a respectable physician in that neighborhood.

Another uncle of mine, Abel F., also graduated at Cambridge, in 1818, and adopted teaching as a profession. He is now connected with the Riverside Academy, at Auburndale, Newton, near Boston. I also graduated at the same college, in 1826.

My younger and only brother, Charles H., a graduate of the Cambridge Medical School, is a physician at Gloucester, Mass. The Cambridge catalogue has the names of a brother and cousin of mine (Samuel T. Hildreth and Horatio N. Hildreth), both promising young men, graduates of 1837 and 1844, but who died shortly after graduation. Of William Hildreth and Roger Brown Hildreth, graduates at the same college of 1811 and 1843, I am not able to give any account.

I have seen a little book entitled "Dragoon Campaigns to the Rocky Mountains," published in New York in 1836, without the name of the author, but said to have been written by James Hildreth, but of his origin or history I can tell nothing.

So much for the Hildreths of New England. There is another branch of the family, which draws its origin from Southampton on Long Island, N. Y. This town was settled as early as 1640 by some forty families from Lynn, Mass., the Yankees even at that early period having begun to filibuster against their neighbors, the Dutch. In the list of these first settlers given in Thompson's "History of Long Island" is found the name of Thomas Hildreth, who very possibly was a brother or other near relation of Richard Hildreth, the settler at Chelmsford, and might have emigrated from England at the same time with him. In the tax list of the town of Southampton for 1683, published in the "Documentary History of New York," vol. 2, pp. 311-12, are found the names of James Hildreth rated at £30; Joseph Hildreth at £100; and Jonathan Hidreth at £30. There are, I understand, several families of the name now living at the east end of Long Island, but that is all I know of them.

It appears by the printed records of the two remarkable State Trials, that more than a hundred years ago there were

persons of the name of Hildreth in the city of New York, probably offshoots of the Long Island branch. In the list of jurors, by whose verdict in the famous case of John Peter Zanger, prosecuted for libel in 1735, the liberty of the press of New York was first vindicated, occurs the name of Benjamin Hildreth. In 1742, several successive incendiary fires in New York created great alarm there. There were then in that city nearly as many slaves in proportion to the whole population as you have now in New Orleans. Some of them were suspected of a plot to burn the town. The excitement was great and many were convicted and executed on very slender testimony. To furnish further food for the excitement, it was presently suggested that the Papists, in the person of a recent emigrant, who held religious meetings, and who was supposed to be a Jesuit in disguise, were plotting (with the negroes) for the destruction of the town. This poor fellow was tried and hanged on this charge, one of the witnesses against him, I am sorry to say, being a certain Joseph Hildreth at that time a schoolmaster in New York, to whom the prisoner had applied to be employed as an assistant, and who was thus led to a certain intimacy with him. His testimony was to conversation which went on to show the accused person to be a very high churchman, perhaps a conjuror, which the court and jury construed into proof of his being a Jesuit.

I find nothing further about the Hildreths of New York till Feb. 1811, when Matthias B. Hildreth was appointed Attorney General of the State. He died July 12, 1812. I know nothing of his origin or of his history. There are said to be Hildreths in Schoharie County, in this State, but whether derived from the New England or Long Island branch I do not know.

As to the history of the family previous to its emigration to America, I have never met with the name, or with any reference to it in any English publication which goes beyond the year 1799. In that year there was published at London, in a thin quarto, "The Hiliad," "an epic poem, in honor of the victory obtained by the British fleet under Nelson, over a superior fleet of the French, off the mouth of the Nile, on the 1st of August, 1798," by William Hildreth.

Finding in the London Directory for 1855, the names of John Hildreth and George James Hildreth, I took the liberty

to address letters, to these gentlemen, seeking for information as to the English branch of the family, and they both replied to me with great promptitude and politeness. Mr. George James Hildreth, a member of the mercantile firm of Tory and Hildreth, Navy Agents, London, proved to be the son of the author of the epic poem above mentioned. His father, he informed me, came in 1781 from Durham where he was born to London where he lived and died, but as my correspondent had never visited his relations in the North of England he was not able to give me any information as to the family, beyond stating that he believed they had long been resident in that part of the country and that farming was their occupation. This agrees sufficiently well with the information communicated by Mr. John Hildreth of Seymour Plain, New Brompton, who writes that his father, Mark Hildreth, who died in 1830, at the age of 84, was the third son, and came with his younger brother, Philip, to London, from Northumberland, at an early age, leaving their two brothers John and Luke in the occupancy of the farm carried on by their father, who had died early in life.

A large proportion of the early emigrants to New England were from the North of England and from that quarter, also, I have no doubt, our American Hildreths came. At home as here, they seem to have been a generation of farmers, only of late years deviating in either country to other pursuits.

For the benefit of the family at large, and in the hopes of eliciting further information, I shall send a copy of this letter for publication in the Boston Genealogical Register. Meanwhile, I remain your friend and cousin (I suppose),

RICHARD HILDRETH.

New York, April 2, 1856.

## HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF HILDRETH IN AMERICA

By Henry Austin Hildreth

NOTE: This is a literal copy of a rare old pamphlet written about the year 1853 (see second paragraph below). This literal copy is reprinted here because it is the oldest printed history of the American Hildreths in our possession and gives an abundance of genealogical data. Too much reliance, however, should not be placed on the accuracy of the data. Nevertheless, it furnishes a valuable guide and many important clews to any one in search of information regarding his ancestors.

JOHN LYMAN PORTER.

Cambridge, Mass.  
1917.

O LIVER HILDRETH settled on a large farm half a mile south of Westford meeting house, in Westford, Massachusetts, I should think about one hundred and fifty years ago (1706) at least. I suppose that the ancestors of Oliver Hildreth settled in Woburn and afterwards moved to Chelmsford and Dracut, and that Westford was set off as a town from Chelmsford, and thus Mr. Oliver Hildreth became a resident of the town of Westford.

Mr. Oliver Hildreth, I should think, lived to at least the age of 80 years on his farm. He was, so far as I know, a quiet, honest sort of man. His descendants have lived on the farm till about seven years ago (1846), when the farm was sold to a man by the name of Whitney. . . . When I hear neither good or bad of any person, I set them down as good. . . . This Mr. Oliver Hildreth is the first of the name with whom I am acquainted. I never saw him, but saw his son Amos 40 years ago. He had, so far as I know positively, three children, viz.: my Grandfather Oliver Hildreth, Amos Hildreth, and an unmarried sister who lived with him. There were two others of the name of Hildreth, as I judge from the descendants, whom I suppose to have been the children of Oliver Hildreth the elder. I judge of the other two children from the fact that Timothy Hildreth who

lived in Sterling, as I have heard my father say, married his own cousin. I believe that Oliver Hildreth, the first I know of that name, had four if not five children.

Oliver Hildreth, jr., one of the sons of Oliver Hildreth, senior of that name, of Westford, resided in Townsend, Middlesex county, at the north part of the town, at a place called Wallace Hill. He lived on the farm to the age of about 70 years, and his wife, formerly Miss Annie Blaisdell, of Westford, died at the age of about 80. He had 14 children, five sons and nine daughters. Oliver was known as a quiet, peaceable, industrious and persevering man. All these children lived to marry and have children. All five of the boys were Revolutionary patriots; their names are as follows:—

1st. JAMES was the oldest of the boys; he settled in Pepperell, Mass., and afterwards moved to Stanstead, in Canada, and afterwards moved to Chelsea, Vt., and died at the residence of his son Daniel there. I don't know whom he married. I know of three children—their names, James, Daniel and Sarah. James went to Canada with his father. Daniel lives now in Chelsea, Vt., where he is a wealthy farmer. Sarah did not marry; she died about 15 years ago and her father about 30 years ago.

2nd. Dr. SAMUEL Hildreth, another of the children of Oliver, Jr., settled in Haverhill, Mass., and married a lady by the name of Bodwell, of Tewksbury, Mass. He had seven children, two boys and five girls, viz.: Susan, Nancy, Mary, Harriet and one other; Samuel and Charles were the names of the boys. Samuel, jr., was a physician and settled in Marietta, Ohio, where he has become wealthy and distinguished, not only as a physician but for his love of the natural sciences. Charles settled in Boston as a physician. He was also successful as a physician. He first went to Marietta, Ohio, and practiced there, and then returned to Boston, where he married a wealthy lady whose name I do not know. Susan married a Nasmith, of Londonderry, N. H., and one of her sons is now a wealthy merchant of New York City, I think his name is John Nasmith, his father was a justice of the peace in Londonderry and considered as of a very respectable family. Harriet married a Bradlee, a large farmer, of Haverhill, Massachusetts. Mary married a lawyer of Haverhill. Nancy, I believe, married a man by the name

of Newman; I believe they lived in Andover, Mass. The name of the other daughter of Dr. Samuel Hildreth I do not remember. She married a Captain Day, who for many years sailed from the port of New York as a ship master. Dr. Samuel Hildreth died on a visit to his son at Marietta; he was a physician and literary man; the children were industrious and peaceable. The children of Mrs. Nasmith were sent to the legislature of New Hampshire.

3rd. JONATHAN Hildreth was the third son of Oliver Hildreth, jr. He married Eunice Warren, of Littleton, Mass., whose mother was of the Prescott family of Westford, of which family Wm. H. Prescott, the celebrated historian, is descended. Jonathan Hildreth first settled in Littleton and opened a store there, and about seventy-three years ago he moved to Concord and settled about one mile north of the Concord meeting house, on what was known as the Plains, where he opened a store and engaged in the manufacture of potash and barrels, and also in mercantile business from the port of Boston. In the Revolutionary War he was appointed a sutler to the American army. He at one time received the saddle bags of his horse full of continental money. Mr. Warren, father of the wife of Jonathan Hildreth, died on his way to the army, which he intended to join, having left his family at Littleton to do so. He was descended from a warlike race of that name in England, who claim descent from the Earl DeWarren, a fierce Norman. Jonathan Hildreth was famous for his great business talents and untiring activity. His lady was also a remarkable woman for intelligence and force of character. He died at the age of 65, and his wife at the age of 52. They had eleven children, viz.: Eunice Prescott Hildreth, Benjamin Warren Hildreth, Jonathan Hildreth, Nancy Hildreth, Susan Hildreth, Andrew Hildreth, Hannah Hildreth, Franklin Hildreth, Eliza Hildreth, George W. Hildreth, and Eliza Cordelia Hildreth. Eunice married John Wyman, of Ashby, Mass., who was a trader and kept a store, where he died 40 years since. Mrs. Wyman then moved to Concord, Mass., and resided at her farm on the Plains near Jonathan Hildreth's residence. They had five children, three sons and two daughters, viz.: Franklin, residing in Cabotville near Springfield, Mass., where he is connected with cotton factories; Laura P. who married Asa Varnum, and now resides in Brooklyn,

N. Y.; John L. a machinist, residing in Lowell; and Augusta, who married a man by the name of Barnes and, after living two years with her husband in New York, went to Havana, where she died.

Benjamin Warren Hildreth was a graduate of Harvard College, and completed his profession in the offices of the famous Dr. Kitteridge, of Andover, and Dr. Smith, of Dartmouth, N. H. Benjamin W. married the daughter of Col. Roger Brown, of Concord, Mass., and settled in Marlboro, Middlesex County, Mass., where he became famous as a surgeon. He had 14 children, one of whom graduated at Harvard and is now a lawyer in Springfield, Mass.; the other sons are engaged in mercantile pursuits. The names of B. W. Hildreth's children are: Benjamin, George W., Ellen J., Eunice P., Sarah, Jonas B., Mary (died), John and another twin (died at sea), Franklin (shot accidentally in California), John and James.

Jonathan Hildreth, jr., is now in his 71st year, and is now the only one of the 14 children of his father remaining on the old homestead. He is a farmer and distinguished for many excellent qualities of mind and heart; he was never married; possessing a strong, clear memory, he has been enabled to detail the facts contained in these papers with a remarkable degree of circumstantial minuteness. As a christian who carries his faith into all the private acts of his life, he is much esteemed by all those who know him.

Nancy Hildreth was the daughter of Jonathan Hildreth, and was celebrated for her beauty. She never married—her life was a melancholy and unfortunate one—she was the victim of a too sensitive nature and died at the age of 64, at her brother's residence at Concord. An early attachment was the cause of her troubles. Susan lived to be 13. She never spoke a word and never walked a step. She was very handsome, with an exceeding fair skin.

Andrew Hildreth was different from all the rest of the children, he had his father's personal resemblance, but not his business qualities. He was famous for his wit, and was either very melancholy or very happy; he went on a voyage to sea while young; was very dressy, and in this respect he was like his father. He now resides on Long Island, in the State of New York. He married Mary Brooks, a daughter of Asa Brooks of Lincoln, whose wife was the daughter of

the Rev. Wm. Lawrence of Lincoln, who is descended from Sir John Townley of England, whose estates were confiscated in Cromwell's time, and have now increased to the enormous sum of £25,000,000 due to heirs of John Lawrence and Elizabeth Townley, who first settled in Watertown about 1642. There are now about 500 heirs, who are kept out of their just rights by the alleged mutilation of the records kept in England. Andrew had five children, three boys and two girls. Two girls died in childbirth, of the name of Mary; Jerome B. Hildreth, a distinguished navigator of the port of New York; Henry A. Hildreth, editor of the "American Review," and a chemist and geologist, of the city of New York; Washington L., a beautiful boy who died at the age of eight years. Franklin Hildreth, another son of Jonathan Hildreth, senior, lived to be only nine years of age. Eliza, who died by accident at two years of age.

George W. Hildreth, another son of Jonathan Hildreth, sen'r., was an active and industrious business man, and followed his father in keeping store and in manufacturing. He accumulated considerable property, having acquired about two-thirds of his father's large landed estate, including the farms of Andrew and Jonathan. He died at the age of 53. He married Eliza Annie Whitney Browne, of Camden, Maine. He had six children, four of whom are now living, viz.: George Franklin, Annie Amelia, Charles Henry, Caroline Eunice. Henry and Charles were the names of the two boys who died at about four years of age. Mrs. Hildreth and her children, together with Jonathan Hildreth, Jr., reside at the old mansion house of the family at the present time, viz.: October 9, 1856.

Eliza Cordelia was married to Sylvanus Bourne Phinney, of Barnstable, Mass., editor of the "Barnstable Patriot," collector of the port of Barnstable under several administrations, and now resides at Barnstable; by which marriage there were six children, three girls and three boys; two of the girls, named Laura and Cordelia died, one at the age of two and the other at the age of nine years. The oldest son is named Gorham Palfrey. Cordelia is the name of the remaining daughter. Theodore W. and Robert J. Walker are the names of the other two boys.

4th. OLIVER Hildreth was the fourth son of Oliver Hildreth, jr., of Townsend; he was a farmer and carried on

also a smith-shop; he married a Miss Wright, of Westford; he had seven children, three sons and four daughters. After residing in Westford for a good many years sold his farm and removed to Harvard, Mass. He was a jolly good looking man, full of fun and wit and fond of trading horses, and famous as a horseman. His eldest son was named Seth, who lived on his father's farm; he was married to a cousin; he left no children. Another son, named Oliver, lived in Westford, where he married; he was very good looking, but was rather too fond of fun, dancing and enjoyment. He followed the shoe-making business. Amos, another son, joined the Shakers, and, after living with them for twenty years, left them, and is said to have married. The girls were named Sarah, Susan, Polly and Nancy, who were never married, but resided together at Harvard, Mass.

5th. ABIJAH Hildreth was another son of Oliver Hildreth, jr., of Westford. He was a long time out in the Revolutionary army as a soldier. He married in Townsend (as it is supposed) and removed to Henniker, in Hillsboro county, New Hampshire, where he owned a large farm upon which his son Abijah Hildreth, Jr., with his family, consisting of a wife, two daughters and one boy now reside.

Polly Hildreth was the eldest daughter of the family of Oliver Hildreth, Jr., of Westford. She was married to Oliver Green, an enterprising and wealthy farmer of Ashburnham, Mass. He had seven children, two of whom received a college education; one of them was distinguished for his literary talents, and was engaged as an editor in the city of New York. Hosea, one of the three boys of this marriage, is now a very wealthy farmer in the town of Ashburnham, Worcester county, Mass. The girls married in that town.

Annie, one of the daughters, was married to a wealthy farmer, and resided in Ashburnham, Mass.

Joanna, another of the daughters of Oliver Hildreth, Jr., of Townsend, married Job Brooks, of Concord, and removed to Stoddard, New Hampshire, where they were engaged in farming.—(South Part, 2 m.) There were fourteen children by this marriage.

Three others of the daughters of Oliver Hildreth, jr., of Townsend, Mass., married three men by the name of Tarbell, one was named Edmund Tarbell, who moved to Westmoreland, Vt. (or Weathersfield.)

Abby Hildreth, another of the daughters of Oliver Hildreth, jr., of Townsend, married Jabez Green, and settled in Marlboro, Mass., where he had a factory for the manufacture of axes. He became wealthy and moved to New York State and settled on a small farm near Utica. He left two sons who were married, Jabez and Benjamin H. Green; the latter now lives at Pass Christian, about 50 miles from the city of New Orleans, where he has become wealthy as a merchant. Jabez and his wife are both dead.

Another of the daughters of Oliver Hildreth, Jr., of Townsend, was married to Rev. Mr. Elliot, of Mason, New Hampshire. He had six children, one was a celebrated Baptist preacher who was settled near Bellows Falls, Vt. (Rockingham), another was a merchant of the city of Boston.

Another of the daughters of Oliver Hildreth, Jr., of Townsend, married Josiah Barnes of Concord, Mass., who had a farm near the North Plains. They had eight children; one of them, John Barnes, now resides in Camden, Maine. Josiah, Hildreth, and Samuel were the names of the three boys, and Abby and Lucy were the names of two of the girls.

Another of the daughters of Oliver Hildreth married a man by the name of Davis and settled on a farm in Chelsea, Vt. They had several children; Joanna and Sally are the names of two of them.

Written by

HENRY AUSTEN HILDRETH,  
son of Andrew and Mary Hildreth.

## THE "LONG ISLAND" HILDRETHS

NOTE: The following is a literal copy (as near as I can make it) of one of the most important contributions relating to the "Long Island" Hildreths which The Hildreth Family Association has received. The original of this paper was sent in by Mr. George W. Hildreth of Good Ground (L. I.), N. Y., August 5, 1915, and is the property of his son, George W. Hildreth, Esq., of Riverhead (L. I.), N. Y. The original has been returned to Mr. Hildreth.

Cambridge, Mass.  
1916.

JOHN LYMAN PORTER.

### DANIEL HILDRETH'S FAMILY RECORD January 1st, 1867

**M**Y First ancestors Came from Southampton England 1640 or 1642. They first went to Lynn in Connecticut (Mass.?) Stayed there a while and then Some 12 families Came over to Long Island and my ancestor James Hildreth wone of the 12. it seames they Bout Some Land of the Indians at what is now Cawlld Old town then they began their settlement and Some Remains of their cellars is to be seen at the present time 1867

There is very little known of the First Settlers what I record is mainly tradition But I have Understood that James Hildreth, G. G. Howell says, in his history of Southampton, his Name was Thomas, but tradition says Not, it seams he had two Sons Joseph and John. Joseph staid in Southampton But John Settled in Bridgehampton and the Hildreths of B. Hampton and Sag Harbor were Discendents of John Hildreth and the Hildreths of S. Hampton and the Joinin Country were Discendents of Joseph.

Joseph had a number of Children he had a son Joseph a son Daniel, and Nathan, and Ephraim Nathan or Ephraim's town lot was where Mr. Wm Woolley now lives and then down the town Street where the house of Capt. Henry Rhodes Now lives 1867 James, or Thomas, died 1687 aged 71 years Joseph, his son, died 1735 aged 78 years There is know Record when any of their Sons were born but Nathan Died

June 13th 1746 aged 63, and Ephraim Died Jan 16th 1771 aged 83 years, buried at town, Abigail Wife of Ephraim Hildreth Died March 21st 1787 aged 43 years, and is buried in the town Grave Yard. Daniel 1st died 1784, aged 69 years and is Buried in the family yarde at 7 ponds.

I have got more information about the Hildreth family it should be Joseph and Daniel Hildreth, sons of Nathan Hildreth that moved to Seven Ponds So Called. Joseph had 12 acres, Land of the North West Corner of the farm Bounded By the road that leads to the village on the North and North West and is now part of the farm of Isaac C. (?) Dimon (?) 1867. The Rest of the tract of land when the land of the town was Divided belonged to Daniel Hildreth first, consisting of some 175 acres. What year Daniel and Joseph were born there is know Record nor is it known which was the oldest, Joseph was a Shoemaker and Currier his wife was Mary Post they had too children Phibe and Sally. Sally Married Bethuel Sandford. She had wone Child named after his Grandfather Joseph H. Sandford. Phibe married Samuel Sandford, Cousin of Bethuel Sandford and had children Sally, Samuel, Harvey, Jason, Nathan and Eliza that lived to marry and have famalys But Nathan has know Child and is the last won of the family now living, 1867, aged some 65 years.

Daniel Hildreth First Built his House on the North part of the farm his Wife's name was Hannah, they had 12 Children

Sibil Hildreth,	born	July	1st, 1746	
Nathan Hildreth,	"	Jan.	2nd, 1747	
Hannah Hildreth,	"	Dec.	5th, 1749	
Daniel Hildreth,	"	Mar.	11th, 1752	
Joseph Hildreth,	"	Apr.	17th, 1754	
Shadrach Hildreth,	"	Sept.	9th, 1756	
Nathan Hildreth, 2nd,	"	Dec.	29th, 1758—Both the	
Samuel Hildreth,	"	Jan.	9th, 1762	Nathans died
Desire Hildreth,	"	Dec.	7th, 1763	in their 9th
Ruth Hildreth,	"	Jan.	4th, 1765	year
Philip Hildreth,	"	Feb.	2nd, 1767	
Pamela Hildreth,	"	Oct.	3rd, 1770	

Daniel Hildreth 2nd Married Amy Sayre Daughter of John Sayre, Joseph 2nd married too Wives, the first name not known But she left 3 children John Joseph and Daniel

John married Anna Genin and lived at Red Crick and had 6 children Jane John and Joseph twins Luther Firdannan and Daniel Joseph the 4th still lives at Red Crick on his Father's home lot aged 30, 1867.

Joseph 3rd married Buly Sayre and had 4 children Albert Lewis Howell and Elmiry Albert and Lewis are still living in Southampton 1867 Daniel went in the Country when young, but where I know not.

### The Hildreth Family

As Recorded on the Town Record of Southampton in 1872

Thomas Hildreth died 1687 (1657?) aged 71

Joseph Hildreth married Hannah Jessup Sept 11, 1678. Joseph Hildreth was the eldest son of Thomas Hildreth.

(Thomas Hildreth's widow Hannah married Jonas Bower.)  
Children of *Joseph* Hildreth

Joseph, Born July 27, 1679.

Benjamin, " Sept 22, 1681.

Nathan, " Mar. 17, 1684.

Joseph Hildreth (the father) was born about 1657 and died probably 1735 Being 78 years old.

Nathan Hildreth Son of Joseph died June 13th, 1746 aged 63 years.

Daniel Hildreth Son of Nathan 1784 aged 69 years.

Hannah Wife of Daniel 1st Died in the year 1782 aged 66 yrs.

Joseph the 2nd his Next Wife was Polly Post he had won Child By her died young and he and his brother Philip Both Died with the small pox and Both Buried the Same day Philip lived with his Brother was not married

Daniel Hildreth 1st was wone of the Greates Landholders in Southampton he owned some 14 hundred acres of wood and plowed land medow that Cut yearly some 40 tuns or more of hay it is now all out of the Hildreth name but some 240 acres, 1867. Daniel Hildreth 1st gave his son Joseph 70 acres off the South west Corner of his farm Now the property of Isaac C. Dimon(?) 1867. The other part of his Farm he gave to his son Daniel the 2nd Some 100 acres, he had 3 Children Shadrach, Pamela and Daniel the 3rd the present 1867. I was born in 1800 May 10th and of course am 67 years old, as the Record is lost of my brother and Sister's age but I believe my Brother was born in 1790 and my Sister in 1791 or 2. Daniel the 2nd gave to his Sons Shadrach and Daniel 3rd his home lot Equal between them—Daniel the

West Side and Shadrach the East Side and Built a House at the North End of the Lot. Shadrach had 3 children Nathan, Hannah and Charles. Brother Shadrach Died 1846 aged 55 years he left his property Equal Between his Sons Nathan and Charles and were both living, 1867. Nathan has 4 Children three boys and wone girl Charles Not married Hannah married Francis Bishop She had 6 Children Hannah died Jan. 5th aged 41 years

Daniel Hildreth third had five Children, Mary Ann, Austin, Lucy Jane, Aurelia Buckley, Caroline Benidect, and wone Died an infant 11 days old we should have Called her Amy.

(Dated Jan. 1st, 1867.)

DANIEL HILDRETH

NOTE: Attached to the above paper was a very interesting letter written by the above Daniel Hildreth's uncle, Dr. Shadrach Hildreth, while serving as surgeon in the Revolutionary Army, telling of some of his experiences and of his retreat with General Washington from Elizabethtown to Brunswick. Should the Hildreth Family Association issue a Publication devoted to the Revolutionary heroes bearing the name of Hildreth this letter would be a desirable contribution.

J. L. P.

## EARLY WRITTEN RECORDS OF THE NAME SPELLED "HILDRETH"

By Mrs. C. J. Hildreth

### *A. D. 1482, November.*

The following is a literal translation from the Records of the *Surtees Society* of Yorkshire, England. Vol. 1837, page 82.

"In the month of November at the Feast of St. Martin, A. D. 1482, a certain John Hildreth (Johannes Hyldryth) of Hallycelyt in the county of Ebor came in his own person to the Cathedral at Durham and at that time he pled asylum for this and on this account:

"On the last day of October just preceding in a certain wood called Clarkdale in the aforesaid county of Ebor, his companions having been smitten in the same place, he had struck on the head with a stick commonly called a club, a certain William Hebuman inflicting on him a mortal wound of which wound he died. Thence instantly in the shortest time possible he pled asylum in the presence of faithful witnesses, viz:

Thomas Maybame of Donclue, Goldsmith,  
Thomas Boz, Shoemaker,

John Stevynson of Gayesforth.

July 14 M. D. XVII Beverlacuse

### *A. D. 1516, July 14.*

In the *Chronicles of Beverly*, England, published by the *Surtees Society* of Yorkshire, there is this record:

"Johannes (H)ildreth, witness, in case of Thos. Wylson, was present from Dunelm Diocese, July 14, M D X V I.  
(1516 Beverlacuse)

### *A. D. 1536. Johannes Hildreth was paid for work at Durham.*

The above John Stevynson of Gayesforth was probably a comrade of Johan Hyldreth. Gayesworth later is called Gainsford. A large family of Hildreths are found in Gainsford in the year 1573.

New Decatur, Alabama.

## FREEMEN AND THE FREEMAN'S OATH

By John Lyman Porter

**I**N colonial records we frequently read that so-and-so was "made Freeman" and some of us have wondered just what that meant.

The charter of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay was granted in 1628 giving to the inhabitants of the Colony certain limited privileges among which were those of voting and of holding office, but these privileges had important restrictions, namely: No person could vote at the elections nor could he hold office unless he was a Freeman; moreover, up to 1665, no person could be made a Freeman unless he was a church member in good standing. The minister decided on his fitness for being made free.

The Colonial Laws, May, 1631, state:

"It is Ordered: That henceforth no man shall be admitted to the freedom of this Common-wealth but such as are members of some of the Churches; and in full communion, within the limits of this Jurisdiction."

(NOTE: This law was repealed in 1665 but with conditions.)

The following copied from the Colonial Laws was the prescribed form of

### THE FREEMAN'S OATH

"I, A.B., being by Gods Providence an Inhabitant within the Jurisdiction of this Common-wealth, (and now to be made free;) doe herē freely acknowledg my self to be subject to the Government thereof: And therefore do here Swear by the great and dreadfull Name of the Ever-living God, that I will be true and faithful to the same, and will accordingly yeild assistance and support therunto, with my person and estate, as in equity I am bound, and will also truely endeavour to maintain and preserve all the Liberties and Priviledges thereof, submitting my self unto the wholesom Laws made and established by the same. And farther, that I will not plot or practice any evill against it, nor consent to any that shall so doe; but will timely discover and reveal the same to lawfull Authority now here established, for the speedy prevention thereof.

"Moreover, I do solemnly bind my self in the sight of God, that when I shall be called to give my voice touching any such matter of this State, wherein Free-men are to deal; I will give my vote and suffrage as I shall in mine own conscience judg best to conduce and tend to the publick weal of the Body, without respect to persons, or favour of any man. So help me God in our Lord Jesus Christ.

---

"Sworn to before me, etc.,"

---

After he had taken the oath, and the Court had approved, he was declared free and then could have the right of suffrage.

At elections the ballots were Indian corn and beans. The Indian corn to manifest election, and the beans contrary. Freemen were allowed to send their ballots by proxy, but their ballots were to be properly done up and marked. If a freeman was elected to office he must serve or pay a fine. This is shown by the following:

"It is ordered: That no members of Churches within this jurisdiction, shall be exempt from any publick service....And if any such person shall refuse to serve in, or take upon him any such Office....he shall pay for every such refusal, such fine, as the Towne shall impose not exceeding Twenty Shillings for one Offence."

(Colonial Laws, 1647.)

Cambridge, Mass.  
1917.

## ELDRED—HILDRETH

### A STUDY ON THE HISTORY AND MEANING OF THE NAME HILDRETH

By Mrs. C. J. Hildreth

NOTE: It was with a feeling of reverence that I arranged Mrs. Hildreth's MSS for this Publication. Mrs. Hildreth died in her home at New Decatur, Ala., last year (1916). Much of her other work was uncompleted, but these papers were forwarded to me by her husband because of their importance to our Association. As a scholar and an educator Mrs. Hildreth was widely known throughout her state, and her writings have won for her an enviable reputation. Her husband, Mr. C. J. Hildreth, is a newspaper publisher. He was born in England; his father's birthplace was Barnard Castle, the town named for the old castle made famous by Scott's "Marmion." Mrs. Hildreth's "study" on the history and meaning of the name Hildreth is a scholarly paper and a most valuable contribution to our compilations.

JOHN LYMAN PORTER.

ONE of the two earliest minted coins bore the name *Eldred*.

The first written "Hild" was the Princess of Deira, "Saint Hilda," who founded the famous abbey of St. Hildae at Whitby and died in 680. Deira, Deifa and Dyorum were that part of Yorkshire, England, now known as Durham, a corruption of Deorham (latin Dyorum). Saint Hilda was the daughter of Hereric, a nephew of Edwin, king of Northumberland, and one of the Lords of Deira, who owned the hamlet of Hildae *Eth-eldred*, a very ancient enclosure, older than Aldborough Castle, washed away by the sea and only remembered by the record of the heavy tax it paid to the Church at Durham. Aldborough is identical in meaning with *Eldreyd* or later Hildstrom.

It is probable that the name Eldred was not written with an "H" until after the Crusades, *although so pronounced*. In the year 1482, when Johan Eldred with some young friends went merry-making together at the Feast of St. Martin and Eldred in a street attack accidentally killed a

man and plead asylum at the sanctuary in the Cathedral at Durham, is found, by the *Surtees Society of Yorkshire*, a written record of the full name *Hildreth*, or as the Saxon monks first wrote it *Hyldryth*, in the archives of the monastery of Durham. Since then the name "Hildreth" is a common matter of record and then as "Hildreth" a small local family became known. This family was probably the younger and less important branch of the Hildyards or Hildyarths, all pronounced indifferently with or without the aspirate and with the suffix *ydd*, *eth*, or *arth*.

A study of the name's history and meaning is the story of England's development. From the savage clad in skins to the freeman of York the owners of that name in its various forms have been exemplars of that sturdy class that may never have owned a feudal but have kept an ancient and honorable estate. The form "Hildreth" is purely a local one, principally found in a district called Holderness.

The writers on patronymics give the meaning of the word Hildreth as *battle* or *referring to battle*, but this meaning is contradicted in the usage of the word, as well as by record evidence. In Norfolk the word "Hildere" is still in use meaning *elder*. Alfric's vocabulary gives the meaning of "Hyldere" as *lector* or *mace bearer*, one who would naturally be an elderly or dignified personality. "Heil" was a British idol, something to venerate. In "Heildring" the suffix is Runic and only applied to the chief of a race, supposedly an elder man. The tradition in Yorkshire is that "Hildreth" means *Chief of the Council*, again supposedly an elder man. The suffixes "eth," "yth," "ydd," mean a *place*, *body of men*, *village*, or *township*, and are old Welsh.

In the county of Lincoln which was formerly a part of Holderness the names "Ildred" and "Eldred" are found, the latter numerously. The almost universal use of "Hild," either as prefix or suffix, in the nomenclature of lands and people of that locality is an unquestionable argument in favor of its meaning *old*, and as a buttress of this is the fact that in all the vicissitudes of the wars of the invaders the natives remained with the land. Its sale or barter included them. No conqueror was ever able to dispossess them, but instead, one by one the conquerors were assimilated. Thus the foreign names retained the British meaning, and in many cases the old names were also retained. In Holderness the Danish

imprint was strongest. There were a number of Danish towns in the North, and before the Saxon invasion almost every family of note was Danish on the father's or mother's side.

In the Arundel MSS the *o* in Holderness is written *e*. In the Magdalen MSS the *e* is written *i*. Holderness was spelled in different ways, the *o* becoming dominant. These differences were no doubt caused by locality and modified by intercommunication or the lack of it. A very large part of the old district of Holderness was low and afforded excellent pasturage for sheep and cattle. Its first inhabitants were the *Cangi*, who were *Druuids*, and the herdsmen of the *Brigantes* whom the Romans conquered. These people occupied a large part of Northern England. The main town of the *Cangi*, or *Parisi* as the Romans called them, was a village built of round huts thatched with straw. This was rebuilt by the Romans with walls, two bridges, a fortress, and a palace for the ruler. Julian called it his "dear Lutitia." The natives, or Britons, as a rule remained on the land and became tenants of the Romans. The name *Parisi* is from the Gaelic "isis," water, and "par," a district. Anciently Holderness was full of lakes.

After the Romans left, various neighboring countries sent their overflow to the fertile shores of England. In Holderness the Danes showed the earliest traces of occupation, and it is to the Danish and later to the Saxon aspiration of the word that we have *Hild* from "Eld" and "Ild." Like many English names, the spelling and even the sound of "Eldred" vary with the locality; the *e* becoming *a*, the written *i* is pronounced *e*, and the suffix takes various forms. In this way *Hild*, referring to "old," has been utilized in innumerable forms, inconceivable if they were not so recorded that the origin is plain to see. Principal among these forms are *Hilston*, *Hilton*, *Haldane*, *Hildyard*, and *Hildreth*. The forms "Hildyarth," "Hildyard," "Hildred," and "Hildreth" were used interchangeably as late as 1600. The Scots dropped the aspirate, making "Aldred" of *Hildred*, "Aldane" of *Hilton*, and the like.

The land now known as Durham was Latinized into *Hildae*, later *Hildaire*, and by the Normans into *Childrae*. This land gave the rank of gentleman. *Hilston* or *Hildon* was the seat of a very ancient and noteworthy family—the family of *Hildrinc*, later called the "Hoary Hiltons."

"The hoary Hildrinc cared not to boast among his kindred. Here was his remnant of relatives and friends slain with the sword in that crowded fight. His son, too, he left on the field of battle, mangled with wounds, young at the fight. The fair-haired youth had no reason to boast of the slaughtering strife . . . . ."

(Date, 934. Translation by Rev. J. Ingram, 1823.)

Their land was a low valley, a fact which meaning "old land" fully explains. The family had the rank of barons and lived in great splendor. The origin of their name, like that of Hildreth, is obscure but becomes less so if we admit the meaning of "old" for *Hild* instead of "battle." The records of the Saxon monks accentuated the difference in the three derivatives. *Hildane* became permanently Scottish, and recently a Hildane of Edinburgh was declared a lineal descendant and permitted to bear the arms of the "Hoary Hiltons." When Sir Christopher Hildyard died about 1600 upon his tomb was carved, among others, *the Arms of Eldred the Priest*, three cups on a shield, described by Ord in his "History of Holderness" as "unknown" but which are easily identified elsewhere.

Thus from the Abbess Hilda and the warrior chief Hildrinc it seems that the origin of the name *Hildryth* is either Danish or British, with all the probability that it is a written corruption of the Kymric *Eldwydd*, an "old place." The *Chief of the Council* was the oldest or most experienced in the *ydd* (village) and was called *Eldryd* or as the colloquial form *Eldred*. In this form the name is scattered throughout England.

New Decatur, Alabama.

## FOREFATHERS' BURYING GROUND

Chelmsford Centre, Mass.

By John Lyman Porter

**A**LL Hildreths are interested in this old burying ground because here is preserved the oldest Hildreth grave-stone in America—that of Richard Hildreth who was buried in 1693, the progenitor of the New England Hildreths. There are only two stones in this yard bearing earlier inscriptions, the year 1690 being the earliest. There are a few rough, uninscribed stones which may possibly mark earlier burials but not necessarily so.

We have no records telling of any established burial place in Chelmsford older than this, although the Town and Church records mention many earlier deaths, one as early as 1657 according to Mr. Fiske's Church records, the record reading: "Acgrilla Underwood, son of S. Underwood Sr., drowned, 1 of 5: 1657, buried on ye general trayning Day." Other early records are: Anna Butterfield, wife of Benjamin, died May 19, 1661; Lydia Proctor, daughter of Robt. & Jane, died Aug. 13, 1661; Thomas Hildreth, son of Richard and Elizabeth, died May 28, 1662, and others up to 1691, but our Association has no data telling where they were buried. In the annals of Chelmsford is this entry:

"1665. No deaths in this Towne this Yeare. Blessed be the God of Life.

"THOS. DANFORTH, Recorder"

In 1702 a rough fence, and in 1708 a board fence, was placed round this old graveyard. This was replaced in 1717 by a stone wall, and in 1790 a wall of more permanent character was built to which were made some repairs in 1793.

In the older part of the cemetery the bodies were buried with their faces toward the east according to an old custom, but this old custom was discontinued in the burials in the later additions to the yard. Since the old stone wall was

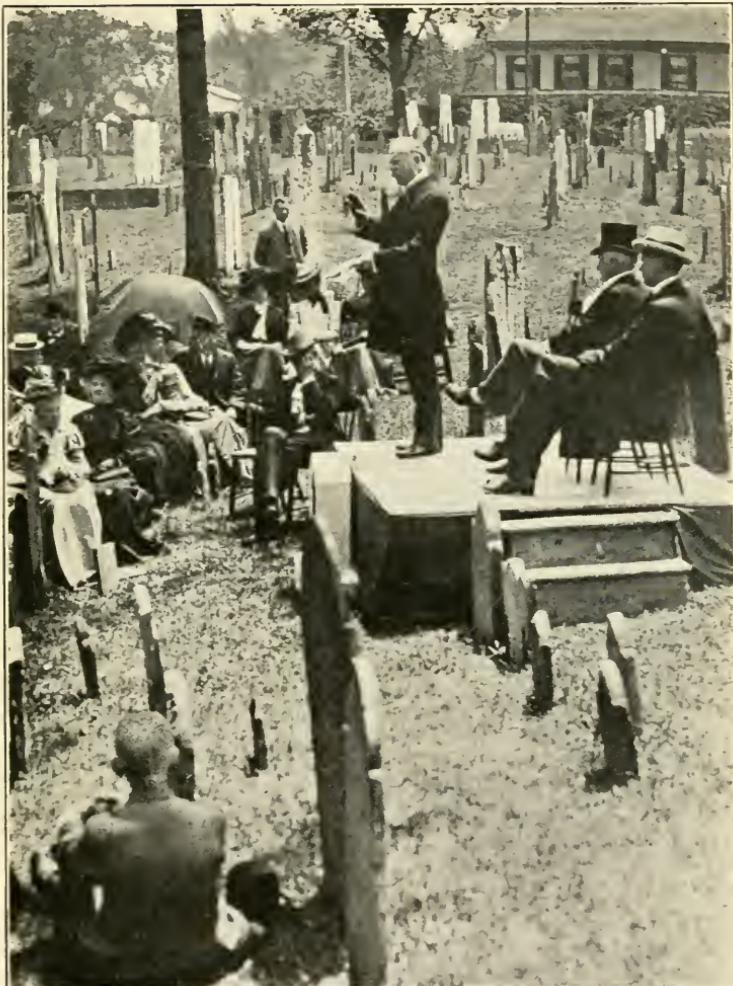
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built, there have been made several additions; the one made in 1817 is said to include the graves of the first minister to Chelmsford, the Reverend John Fiske, and his family. Another addition was made in 1838, and another in 1871.

Between the years 1813 and 1816 the tombs near the top of the rising ground were built, and around 1853 the upper flight of stone steps were built and the upper row of tombs. In 1871 the receiving tomb was built.

In 1909 the Hildreth Family Association erected over the grave of Richard Hildreth (1605-1693) a granite memorial in which was set the original slate gravestone of our first New England ancestor of that name. The illustration on the opposite page, showing a portion of this the old Forefathers' Burying Ground, was taken at the unveiling of the Hildreth memorial.

Cambridge, Mass.  
1917.



## FOREFATHERS' BURYING GROUND

CHELMSFORD CENTRE, MASS.

In this ancient burying ground is preserved the oldest Hildreth gravestone in America — that of Richard Hildreth, buried in 1693. The illustration shows John Lewis Hildreth, A. B., M. D., LL.D., and Eugene Westel Hildreth seated, and Brig.-Gen. Philip Hildreth Reade standing. The occasion was the unveiling of the Hildreth Memorial, June 12, 1909.



## THE SECOND GENERATION OF HILDRETHS IN AMERICA

By John Lyman Porter

(NOTE: This compilation is made mostly from miscellaneous data in possession of the Hildreth Family Association, which data have been accumulating for nearly a quarter of a century. Much of it now would be difficult to duplicate, because many of the members who furnished it have since passed away. Their sources of information were records from family Bibles, old diaries, grave-stones, family traditions, town and church records, vital statistics and town histories. These sources of information were often incomplete and sometimes at variance. Occasional errors and omissions in these data could easily have occurred, and it is earnestly hoped that any reader who discovers errors or omissions of any kind in this compilation will send us the corrections, together with information as to the source of such corrections.)

**W**E have found (see *first publication* of the Hildreth Family Association, 1915) that there were two old Puritan forefathers by the name of Hildreth appearing in widely separated sections of this country in the same year—1643, namely:

RICHARD<sup>1</sup> HILDRETH, who appeared in Cambridge, Mass., and THOMAS<sup>1</sup> HILDRETH, who appeared in Southampton, Long Island, N. Y. According to our records Richard had wives Sarah and Elizabeth and eleven (11) children, and Thomas had wife Hannah and four (4) children, making

### ONLY FIFTEEN (15) HILDRETHS IN THE SECOND GENERATION, VIZ.:

Jane <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. about	1628,	dau.	Richard and Sarah
James <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. about	1631,	son	" and "
Elizabeth <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. Sept. 21,	1646,	dau.	" and Elizabeth
Sarah <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. Aug. 8,	1648,	dau.	" and "
Mary <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. about	1650,	dau.	" and "
Ephraim <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. about	1655,	son	" and "
Abigail <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. about	1656,	dau.	" and "
Joseph <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. Apr. 16,	1658,	son	" and "
Persis <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. Feb. 8,	1659,	dau.	" and "
Isaac <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. July 20,	1661,	son	" and "
Thomas <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. Feb. 1,	1661,	son	" and "

Joseph <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. _____ son	Thomas and Hannah
Hannah <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. _____ dau.	" and "
James <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. _____ son	" and "
Peter <sup>2</sup> Hildreth,	b. _____ son	" and "

JANE<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. about 1628, probably in England, daughter of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Sarah Hildreth of Cambridge and Chelmsford, Mass., m. at Concord, Mass., December 31, 1645, Robert Proctor, of Concord, Mass., b. probably in England, the immigrant ancestor of the Concord line of Proctors. It is stated in Vol. 1, page 466, of "New England Families," by Cutter, that Robert Proctor is supposed to have come over from England soon after 1636. But the earliest date our Association has of him is that of 1643, when he was made Freeman. The next earlier date we have of him is that of his marriage to Jane<sup>2</sup> Hildreth at Concord, Mass., as noted above. He and his wife Jane resided in Concord until around 1654 or 1655, when they removed to Chelmsford, Mass., and were among the founders of that town, he and his father-in-law, Richard<sup>1</sup> Hildreth, being two of the petitioners for the Chelmsford grant. Robert Proctor was one of the first members of John Fiske's church in Chelmsford, Mass., the old church records stating

June 29, 1656. "This day the Lords Supper & have communicated with us Robert Proctor of Concord."

In 1658 he with other Chelmsford men petitioned the General Court for privilege to trade with the Indians. In 1660 he was made constable for the town and collected payments for the new meeting house. In the years 1661-2-3 he was viewer of fences, and during these years was completed the first road in Chelmsford. This road was laid out by Robert Proctor's house in the Robin's Hill section and was the main road to Groton and Boston, the Chelmsford portion of it still being in use though not much traveled. The earliest Tax List of Chelmsford that has been preserved has his name on it. In 1671 his minister's tax was £2: 9: 10. In 1673 he had a stubborn quarrel with his father-in-law, Richard<sup>1</sup> Hildreth, concerning a boundary line between their meadows. He made some unfounded charges against Hildreth, and Hildreth retaliated by preventing Proctor from receiving the church Sacrament, or as Parson Fiske on the church records couches it:

"He, Bro. Hildreth, was instrumental of hindering his son Proctor from ye Sact."

This particular entry on the church records, expressly calling Proctor son of Richard Hildreth, proves that Jane Hildreth (Robert Proctor's wife) was a daughter and not a sister of Richard<sup>1</sup> Hildreth. In September of this same year (1673) Robert Proctor with twenty-five others petitioned the General Court for a grant of land embracing about two hundred square miles which was later called Dunstable. Proctor undoubtedly had a farm here previous to the date of the petition. In 1674, Robert Proctor's name appears on the Chelmsford powder account, showing that he with others was preparing for trouble with the enemy. In 1676 he was allowed for losses sustained by "the Enemy." March 16, 1691/2, he commanded the West End garrison in the West Regiment of Middlesex, but his rank is not mentioned.

He d. at Chelmsford, Mass., April 28, 1697, leaving wife Jane and eleven childien. Our data as yet do not tell us when his wife, Jane (Hildreth) Proctor, died. She was living July 13, 1697, the date when his will was probated and she appointed executrix. They had twelve (12) children namely:

Sarah Proctor,	b. Oct. 12, 1646,	at Concord,	Mass.
Gershom Proctor,	b. May 13, 1648,	" "	Mass.
Mary Proctor,	b. Apr. 8, 1650,	" "	"
Peter Proctor,	b. _____ 1652,	" _____	"
Dorothy Proctor,	b. _____ 1654,	" _____	"
Elizabeth Proctor,	b. Dec. 16, 1656,	" Chelmsford	"
James Proctor,	b. Jan. 8, 1658,	" "	"
Lydia Proctor,	b. Feb. 19, 1660,	" "	"
John Proctor,	b. Aug. 17, 1663,	" "	"
Samuel Proctor,	b. Sept. 15, 1665,	" "	"
Israel Proctor,	b. Apr. 29, 1668,	" "	"
Thomas Proctor,	b. Apr. 30, 1671,	" "	"

The Chelmsford Land Records show that Robert Proctor had received several grants of land from the town, aggregating one hundred or more acres of upland and meadow. Some of this was in the Robin's Hill section, and a large part of it adjoined the lands of Richard<sup>1</sup> Hildreth, as shown by the following copy of the record of the Town Grants to him, viz.:

"Apl. 30, 1660. The Record of the Accomodation of upland and meadow granted by the Town of Chelmsford to Robert Proctor with the Bounds and Buttments of the same.

"Upland: eight acres more or less on which his house standeth Bounded South by the Land of James Hildreth: West partly by the land of Edward Kemp and by Land of Joseph Gilson—and on all other points by the Town Common—Eleven Acres more or less: Bounded west by the Land of Richard Hildreth: on all other points by the Town Common This eleven acres are delivered up to Abraham Parker Seven acres more or less bounded west by the Land of Richard Hildreth: North by the Hisgway to Tadmuck; on all other points by the Town Common.—One Acre and half more or less: granted to set his Hay (?) upon Bounded easterly by the County Highway, on all other points by the Town Common.

"His Meadow: One Acre and half more or Less and a Swamp Joyning to it. Bounded South by the meadow of James Hildreth: Northeast by the Land of Robert Proctor: westerly by the Meadow of Edward Kemp: Southwest by the Common.

"Six Acres more or less: Bounded North partly by the meadow of Richard Hildreth: on all other points by the land of Robert Proctor.

"Three Acres more or less Lying at Little Tadmuck, bounded south by the Meadow of John Adams: North by the Meadow of Edmond Chamberlain: on all other points by the Town Common.

"Four Acres more or Less on the Meadow called pond meadow Lying on mill brook bounded west by the pond called Hart pond east by the meadow of Samuel Fletcher: on all other points by the Town Common.

"Three Acres and half more or Less: Bounded Southeasterly by the Line of Billerica: West and North by the meadow of Thomas Corey: on all other points by the Town Common.

"One Acre and half more or Less Lying at great Tadmuck Bounded on all points by the Town Common—

"Five Acres and half more or Less Lying at great Tadmuck: Bounded South by the meadow of Simeon Tomson—North by the meadow of Richard Hildreth: On all other points by the Town Common.

"Upland Forty two Acres and a half more or Less Lying on both sides the meadow of the sd Robert Proctor Lying on the Mill brook bounded on the South Side by the Town Common—West by the Land of Richard Hildreth on the other side of the meadow West by the Land of David Freshall; on the north partly by the Land of James Hildreth and partly by the Town Common.

"Eleven Acres more or Less Bounded South by the hous Lott of Richard Hildreth: on all other points by the Town Common.

"per the Selectmens order

"JACOB PARKER, Clerk"

On March 10, 1695/6, Robert Proctor made his will; it was probated July 13, 1697; his wife Jane was executrix. The will reads as follows:

In the name of God, Amen. I Robert Proctor of the Town of Chelmsford, in the County of Middlesex, within his Majesty's province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, being at this present time of good memory & sound judgement & thro ye mercy of God. Do make & ordaine this my last Will & Testament. In manner following:

*Imprs.*—My will is yt all Debts I owe to any person shall be discharged & payd by my Executrix hereafter named, before any Legacies are paid out of my Estate

*Itn.*—I will yt my sons amongst whome I have Disposed my lands shall beare the charges of ye Funerall of myself & Deare Wife  
*Itn.*—It is my will yt tho severall parcels of land wh<sup>e</sup> I have disposed to my Beloved Sons by Deeds of the same to d given viz:— To my Son Gershom Proctor, To my Son Peter Proctor, To my son James Proctor, To my Son John Proctor, to my Son Samuell Proctor, to my Son Israill Proctor, shall stand & remain firm & yt thd no advantage in Law shall be Taken yt or any of them one against another. In case any circumstantiall errour in those Severall Deeds & Instruments of Convighanse should appear & yt abt lands, meadows, Houses &c are conveighed to my above named sons shall be & are their severall proportions of estate of inheritance & thd my said Sons or any of Them shall not have power & liberty upon any pretense whatsoever to challenge & demand any more of this my Estate, either real or personal & It is my Will, Earnest Desire & charge to my Beloved Sons live together peaceably & that they fall not out or Contend about the Disposal of my lands as is above mentioned according to my Conscience & best Judgement in the matter made & ordered.

*Itn.*—My will is that In case my Beloved Son Thomas Proctor lives & returns from Sea to New England yt He shall possess & Injoy for himself, Heirs & assigns forever all my Remaining Lands & meadows in Chelmsford not disposed to my other Sons which I give to him absolutely with all the privilidges of Highway & other Conveniences, as I have granted to my other sons in their Deeds But if my son Thomas Proctor should not live & Return to New England, it is then my will that the land & meadows as above shall be for the use, Improvement & Profit of my wife Jane, during her Naturall Life & yt is my will yt my wife Jane shall sell the sd lands & meadows to those my Sons yt have Land adjoining to it In case they desire to purchase it at a valuable price & consideration: moreover it is my will yt my wife Jane shall pay out to my Beloved Daughters viz:

Dorothy Barrett & Elizabeth Proctor, two Thirds of the money & value of sd land, (being sold as above), the same to be equally divided between sd Daughters & that my wife shall pay the Remaining Third part of the vallue & price of ye land unto my Be-

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loved Daughters Sarah Chamberlain & Mary Bourne, That is to say, Two parts of it to Mary Bourne & the other part to Sarah the wife of Thos. Chamberlain & yt then severall payments & legacies to my Daughters shall not be demanded of my wife during her life, but Shee may dispose these legacies in any Time of her life if shee please. Further it is my will that the value & price of The lands shall be secured for my daughters as above & yt that my wife shall only have the use & Improvement of the lands as is above expressed. *Itn.*—I give & bequeathe all my moveable estate to my Beloved Wife Jane during the term of her natural life for her use & comfort & after her death my will is that it shall be Injoyed by my Two Daughters, viz Dorothy Barrett & Elizabeth Proctor, To whom I give an Equall share & proportion of sd moveables: & I do constitute & appoint my Beloved Wife Jane sole Executrix of this my last Will & Testament & Request my Beloved Brother Jacob Warren, Sen. of Chelmsford & Impower him to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of this my last will & Testament, to advise & assist my Beloved Wife in executing the same. & for the confirmation of this my last Will & Testament, I have Hereunto put my Hand & Seal this Tenth day of March 1695-6.

Signed sealed &  
delivered in presence  
of  
Thomas Clarke  
Ely Foster  
Joshua Barrus (?)

I Robert Proctor before signing this  
Instrument, Declare yt I formerly gave my  
daughters Sarah Chamberlain & Mary  
Bourn yr portions & Therefor I will yt they  
shall not have power to challenge any fur-  
ther interest in my Estate than that is men-  
tioned to be given to them in this my Will &  
Testament upon ye caution expressed.

ROBERT PROCTOR.

JAMES<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. about 1631, probably in England, son of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Sarah Hildreth of Cambridge and Chelmsford, Mass., m. at Dorchester, Mass., by Major-General Atherton, June 1, 1659, Margaret Ward. She was b. about 1636, according to Elizabeth Hildreth's testimony in case of Elizabeth Proctor v. Thomas Marrables, May 2, 1680, at Billerica, Mass., stating that Margaret (Ward) Hildreth was then aged about 44. The age of James<sup>2</sup> Hildreth is fixed by his testimony at Cambridge, Mass., Aug. 27, 1651, saying that he was then 20 years old and the son of Richard Hildreth. (See case Hildreth v. Eldred concerning hogs.) The testimony also fixes his relationship to Richard Hildreth. (NOTE: He is also called "eldest son" in his father's will.) Later in this same year (1651) on Nov. 8, the ship "John and Sarah" registered at Gravesend, England, with 142 named passengers on board bound for Charlestown, N. E. Among these passengers was one "James hedeicke" but because of

the date (Nov. 8) when "James hedeicke" was on board the boat in England, and the earlier date (Aug. 27) when James Hildreth testified in Cambridge, Mass., there can be a doubt raised as to the identity of these two men being the same.

James<sup>1</sup> Hildreth and his wife Margaret Ward, immediately after their marriage, removed to Chelmsford, Mass., and settled on the place recently known as the J. Boynton Reed farm. He was active there in town affairs for some over thirty years, was viewer of fences, constable, road surveyor, grand juryman and selectman. He was an Indian fighter, was Sergeant of the Militia and in June 1689 was confirmed Lieutenant of the Foot Company. On March 16, 1691/2, he was Lieutenant in Benj. Haywood's garrison in the West Regiment of Middlesex and from then until his death his name appears on the Chelmsford records as Lieut. James Hildreth. His wife, Margaret, in 1664, evidently transferred her membership from some other church to the one in Chelmsford, the Chelmsford church records reading, viz.:

"20 of 1 (1664) This day Margaret Hildrick her confession and her dismission read and she recd. into our covenant."

She d. at Chelmsford, Mass., Aug. 31, 1693. He d. April 14, 1695. His son-in-law, Israel Proctor, was appointed administrator of his estate May 2, 1695. His estate consisted of land and buildings and considerable personal property; it was appraised at £263: 2: 10; was settled Nov. 7, 1698, and distributed among his children: Richard (eldest son), Margaret Proctor (eldest daughter and wife of Israel Proctor), Abigail, Dorothy, and Ephraim. (See Cambridge Probate Records No. 7971.) James<sup>2</sup> Hildreth and his wife Margaret had eleven (11) children, namely:

Margaret <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. May 22, 1660, at Chelmsford, Mass.
Sarah <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Feb. 22, 1661, " " "
James <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Apr. 9, 1664, " " "
Elizabeth <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Mch. 28, 1666, " " "
Mary <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Mch. 28, 1666, " " "
Thomas <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Aug. 12, 1668, " " "
Hannah <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Oct. 2, 1670, " " "
Abigail <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Oct. 3, 1672, " " "
Richard <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. 1677 or 1678, " _____, ____.
Ephraim <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Jan. 9, 1680, " _____, ____.
Dorothy <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. _____, " _____, ____.

A very exhaustive compilation of genealogical and historical data concerning James<sup>2</sup> Hildreth and his wife Margaret (Ward) Hildreth, their children and their descendants, has been made by Captain (now Brigadier General) Philip Reade, entitled "Origin and Genealogy of the Hildreth Family of Lowell, Mass.," 1892; also a later compilation by the same author, entitled "The First Generation of the name of Hildreth in Middlesex County, Massachusetts," 1909. These two books show evidence of extensive research and diligent examination of town histories, town records, vital statistics, and many genealogical and historical collections.

ELIZABETH<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. at Cambridge, Mass., Sept. 21, 1646, daughter of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Hildreth of Cambridge and Chelmsford, Mass., m. at Chelmsford, Dec. 15, 1664, John Stevens of Boston and Chelmsford. They settled in Chelmsford, and they and their descendants for five generations lived on one of the very early roads, first known as "Stony Brook Path," now the Westford road. His farm was at the foot of Francis hill and is now the so called William Martin place. In 1663 the town granted him a 10-acre lot of upland for 50 shillings, and in 1667 his name is given as proprietor of six acres of land in the "New Field." In the years 1671 and 1672 his name appears on the Tax List to support the minister. In 1672 his assessed property consisted of 1 head (meaning 1 poll), 2 cows, 4 swine, 6 acres of land, and buildings. In 1674 his name is on the powder account, indicating that he was preparing with others for trouble with the enemy, and in 1676 the town allowed him for losses "by the enemy." In 1686 he is named in the Wamesit Purchase as one of fifty proprietors of Chelmsford. He was an Indian fighter and in June, 1689, was confirmed Ensign of the Foot Company of Chelmsford.

Ensign John Stevens d. at Chelmsford, Mass., April 6, 1691. An inventory of his estate was returned by Josiah Richardson and Ephraim Hildreth and entered June 9, 1691. Elizabeth Stevens and her son John presented this as a true inventory, and were made administrators of the estate June 16, 1691.

Our Association as yet has no data showing when his wife Elizabeth (Hildreth) Stevens died, except that she survived him. Concerning her the Chelmsford church records state

that on July 3, 1670, Elizabeth Stevens was propounded to church fellowship, and on July 24, 1670, Elizabeth, the wife of John Stevens, was received into full communion. They had five (5) children, namely:

Elizabeth Stevens, b. Feb. 8, 1665, at Chelmsford, Mass.  
John Stevens, b. \_\_\_\_\_, " \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.  
Richard Stevens, b. Sept. 26, 1674, " Chelmsford, Mass.  
Elizabeth Stevens, b. \_\_\_\_\_, " \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.  
Joseph Stevens, b. Mch. 24, 1679, " Chelmsford, Mass.

SARAH<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. at Cambridge, Mass., Aug. 8, 1648, daughter of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Hildreth, of Cambridge and Chelmsford, Mass., m. at Cambridge, Dec. 31, 1674, David Stone, Jr., of Cambridge, a cooper by trade and son of David and Elizabeth Stone, of Cambridge. He was b. April 6, 1650, and d. at Cambridge, Mass., Aug. 21, 1679. Before her marriage Sarah<sup>2</sup> Hildreth resided in Chelmsford, Mass., and was admitted to church membership there when but 18 years of age, the church records reading as follows:

"13th of 12 (1666) At a church meeting Sarah Hildreth propounded to ye Church as deserving church fellowship.

"26th of 3/67 Sarah Hildreth taken into covt. & fellowship with yis Church."

David Stone, Sr., was son of Deacon Gregory and Margaret Stone, immigrant ancestors, whose farm included the present site of the Botanic Gardens of Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass.

David Stone, Jr., and his wife Sarah<sup>2</sup> Hildreth, after their marriage, resided in Cambridge, Mass., until his death. The County Court Records, Vol. 3, page 291, say

"Oct. 7, 1679. Sarah Stone relict widow of David Stone of Cambridge, made Admx."

This record would indicate he left property; but our Association has no data concerning it, and as yet we have no further data regarding his wife Sarah. They had two (2) children, namely:

Sarah Stone, b. Mch. 6, 1676/7, at Cambridge, Mass.  
Elizabeth Stone, b. Feb. 6, 1678/9, " " "

MARY<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. about 1650, probably at Cambridge, Mass., daughter of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Hildreth, of Cambridge and Chelmsford, Mass., m. at Chelmsford, June 21, 1667, Jacob Warren, b. Oct. 26, 1642, at Weymouth, Mass., son of Arthur and Mary Warren, of Weymouth, immigrant ancestors.

Our Association as yet has no data showing when Jacob Warren removed from Weymouth to Chelmsford, Mass., but on June 7, 1659, the earliest recorded highway in Chelmsford was laid out along by one Jacob Warren's place, via Beaver Brook bridge, Robin's Hill, through Richard Hildreth's yard, west end of Hart's pond and towards Groton, Mass. (NOTE: If this is the same Jacob Warren, he was then but 17 years old and unmarried.) He and his wife Mary (Hildreth) Warren became members of the church in Chelmsford soon after their second child was born—the old church records reading as follows:

"April 18, 1672, Mary Warren ye daughter of Richard Hildreth presented to Tryall;

"April 22, 1672; propounded to ye Church;

"April 28, 1672; Propounded to ye public congregation. 2 children baptized.

"Feb. 8, 1673; Jacob Warren and Mary Warren—these two admitted to full communion this day in our Church & they had 2 ch infants, which they resigned to ye watch of this church—Jacob and Joseph."

In the year 1672 Jacob Warren was taxed for the minister's support, and in the year 1674 his name is on the Chelmsford powder account, showing that he was preparing with others for trouble with the enemy. In Vol. 106, of the State archives, is a signed statement by the minister, John Fiske, of Chelmsford, saying

March 9, 1673/4. ". . . and Joseph Warren, desiring that they may be made freeman and take the freeman's oath at the next County Court, have approved themselves unto our Church."

On December 12, 1677, Jacob Warren received a grant of land in that part of Chelmsford since known as Westford. And on the Chelmsford Town Grants of land is found this record:

Feb. 5, 1677. "Given to Jacob Warren two Acres of land lying adjoining to Richard Hildreth's land on South side of the Bridge for him to build a house on for his subsistance."

He held various town offices. Was viewer of fences; was on committee for laying out land, a surveyor of highways, a tythingman, and had served as selectman.

About 1690, and for several years after, there was quite a migration of families to Connecticut to found there the new town of Canterbury. Among these was Jacob Warren and his family from Chelmsford, Mass. He was chosen on the first board of selectmen for the new town. He d. previous to 1723. His wife, Mary (Hildreth) Warren, survived him until 1730, the Chelmsford records saying "Widow Mary Warren d. Dec. 17, 1730." They had five (5) children, namely:

Joseph Warren,	b. Oct. 25, 1670,	at Chelmsford, Mass.
Jacob Warren,	b. (Bapt.) 1672,	" " "
Elizabeth Warren,	b. March 3, 1674,	" " "
Ephraim Warren,	b. June 24, 1680,	" " "
Sarah Warren,	b. March 3, 1689,	" " "

(NOTE: In 1691/2 there was a Jacob Warren in Chelmsford who served as a member of the garrison in the West Regiment in Middlesex under Lieutenant Ephraim Hildreth. This was probably the son Jacob.)

EPHRAIM<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. about 1655, probably at Cambridge, Mass., son of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Hildreth, of Cambridge and Chelmsford, Mass., was twice married. He m. (1) at Stow, Mass., June 11, 1685, Dorothy Barnes, daughter of Thomas and Abigail Barnes, of Marlboro, Mass. By his wife Dorothy he had one (1) child, namely:

Ephraim, b. June 10, 1686, at Stow, Mass.

The mother, Dorothy (Barnes) Hildreth, d. at Stow, June 17, 1686, and the child Ephraim d. at Stow, Nov. 22, 1686. The father Ephraim m. (2) at Stow, Mass., Oct. 8, 1686, by William Brunsmead, minister, of Marlboro, Mass., Anna Moore, of Sudbury, Mass., daughter of John and Anne (Smith) Moore, of Lancaster and Sudbury, Mass.

She was b. at Lancaster, Mass., July 17, 1666. Ephraim<sup>2</sup> Hildreth and his second wife Anna Moore, soon after their marriage, removed to Chelmsford, Mass. How long a time previous to his marriages and removal to Chelmsford he resided in Stow our Association has no data to tell; but he probably went there around 1675, for in that year history has him on record as a private under Major Willard in a troop of horse rushing from Lancaster 30 miles through woods and swamps to Brookfield, Mass., rescuing there the inhabitants found huddled in the one surviving house—a fortified one—all the other houses having been burned by the Indians. According to Drake's "History of Middlesex County," in a sketch of Stow, Mass., there were twelve allotments of land made in the Stow plantation. Lot No. 1 was set apart for the first minister, and the other eleven were taken up in 1678 or 1679 and were assigned to Ephraim Hildreth, Thomas Stevens, and others whose names are mentioned. In 1680 he made an agreement with John Haywood, of Boston, to have a lot of land secured him in the Stow plantation, and in 1681 he is the recorded owner of Lot No. 5. When the Stow lots were drawn, it was assumed he came from Concord, Mass. Why he first settled in Stow is not known. Possibly his interest there may have come through his father, to whom 150 acres of land had been allowed by the General Court in 1669. On the town records of Stow in 1685 he is termed one of the "antient planters" and is granted a license to keep a house of entertainment, or "ordinary" (i. e., to be an innkeeper), and in 1686 this license was renewed. About this time he removed to Chelmsford, Mass. His father was then 81 or 82 years old and needed Ephraim's help in managing his property. In February 1686/7 his father deeded to him eight (8) parcels of land in Chelmsford and in the same month made his will naming Ephraim as executor. Six or seven years later his father died, and Ephraim settled the estate. While in Chelmsford he settled other estates, was guardian of children, held town offices, was tythingman, selectman for 18 or 20 years, chairman of town committees, had been constable, surveyor of highways, was on a committee in 1710 to finish the new meeting house, and in 1712 was on a committee to seat it. Six years later he was voted room for a new pew in the meeting house. Highways were laid out to his properties, buildings were erected on them, and he prospered.

He resided in that portion of Chelmsford which in 1729 was set off and became the town of Westford. In the latter part of his life he apportioned the bulk of his property among his children after providing for his wife Anna. On March 5, 1730/31, he made his will, and a month later, at Westford, Mass., on April 5, 1730/31, he died. His wife, Anna (Moore) Hildreth, survived him nearly 30 years. She died (funeral held) at Littleton, Mass., April 8, 1760, aged 95. They had eleven (11) children, namely:

Ephraim <sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b.	Oct. 28, 1687,	at Chelmsford, Mass.
Joseph <sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b.	Feb. 22, 1688/9,	" " "
Richard <sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b.	Apr. 17, 1691,	" " "
James <sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b.	Apr. 19, 1692,	" " "
Ebenezer <sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b.	May 22, 1696,	" " "
James <sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b.	Dec. 23, 1698,	" " "
Jonathan <sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b.	_____	named in father's will at Chelmsford, Mass.
Anna <sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b.	Sept. 3, 1705,	" " "
Thomas <sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b.	Sept. 25, 1707,	" " "
Jacob <sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b.	July 18, 1709,	" " "
David <sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b.	Aug. 16, 1711,	" " "

Below are chronologically arranged from our Association's data some of the incidents pertaining to the history of Ephraim<sup>2</sup> Hildreth. This is done for the benefit of his many descendants who are far more numerous than those from any other Hildreth of the second generation.

1655 (?) ——. Born, probably at Cambridge, Mass., son of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Hildreth, of Cambridge and Chelmsford, Mass.

1664, Feb. 6. Birth of his first wife, Dorothy Barnes, at Marlboro, Mass. She was daughter of Thomas and Abigail (Goodnow) Barnes, of Marlboro, Mass., who came to this country in ship "Speedwell" in May 1656.

1666, July 17. Birth of his second wife, Anna Moore, at Lancaster, Mass. She was daughter of John and Anna (Smith) Moore, of Lancaster and Sudbury, Mass.  
(Lancaster Records.)

1673, ——. Viewer of Fences.

(Chelmsford Records.)

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1674, Sept. 1. Name on Chelmsford powder account.  
(History of Chelmsford.)

1675, ——. Private under Major Willard in a troop of horse from Lancaster to Brookfield, rescuing settlers there from the Indians.  
(List of Soldiers under Major Willard in N. E. Hist. Reg.)

1675, Oct. 5. Credited with service under Major Willard £2:7:0.  
(History of Chelmsford.)

1678 or 1679. In assignment of 12 lots of land in Stow, Mass., the first lot was set apart for a minister, the other 11 lots were assigned to Ephraim Hildreth, Thomas Stevens, and others whose names are mentioned.  
(Drake's Hist. Middlesex, in Sketch of Stow.)

1680, ——. Ephraim Hildreth made an agreement with John Haywood of Boston to have a lot of land secured him in the Stow plantation.  
(Reade's Hist. of Lowell Hildreths.)

1681, ——. Owner of Lot No. 5 in Stow plantation, according to documents dated that year.  
(Reade's Hist. of Lowell Hildreths.)

1685, June 11. Marries, at Stow, Mass., his first wife, Dorothy Barnes of Stow. She was b. 1664. (See above.)  
(Stow Records. Also Middlesex B. M. D.)

1685, Feb. 1. The selectmen of Stow mention him as one of the "antient planters" and grant him an innholder's license.  
(Stow Records.)

1686, April 6. License as innkeeper at Stow renewed.  
(Hildreth Family Association data.)

1686, June 10. Birth of child Ephraim at Stow, Mass., his first and only child by his wife Dorothy.  
(Stow Records.)

1686, June 17. Death of his wife Dorothy at Stow, Mass.  
(Stow Records.)

1686, Oct. 8. Marries, at Stow, Mass., his second wife Anna Moore, of Sudbury, Mass. They were married by William Brunsmead, minister, of Marlboro, Mass. She was b. at Lancaster, Mass., 1666. (See above.)  
(Stow and Lancaster Records. Also John<sup>1</sup> Moore Genealogy.)

1686, Nov. 22. Death at Stow, Mass., of child Ephraim, his first and only child by his first wife Dorothy Barnes.  
(Stow Records. Also Middlesex B. M. D.)

1686 (?) ——. He and his wife Anna move to Chelmsford.  
(Hildreth Family Association data.)

1686/7, Feb. 1. Is conveyed eight (8) parcels of land in Chelmsford, Mass., by his father Richard<sup>1</sup> Hildreth.  
(See copy of this deed in First Publication of the Hildreth Family Association, p. 65.)

1686/7, Feb. 11. Is named executor of his father's will.  
(Cambridge Probate Records No. 8004.)

1687, Oct. 28. Birth of son Ephraim at Chelmsford, Mass., his first child by his wife Anna Moore.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1688, ——. Surveyor of Highways.  
(Chelmsford Town Records.)

1688, Feb. 22. Birth of son Joseph at Chelmsford, Mass.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1690, ——. Surveyor of Highways.  
(Chelmsford Town Records.)

1691, April 17. Birth of son Richard at Chelmsford, Mass.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1691, June 9. Renders inventory of John Stevens's estate.  
(Hildreth Family Association memo.)

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1691/2, Mch. 16. Has charge of Benj. Haywood's garrison in the West Regiment of Middlesex, but his rank is not stated.

(History of Chelmsford.)

1692, April 19. Birth of son James at Chelmsford, Mass.  
(This son died Dec. 11, 1696.)

(Chelmsford Records.)

1693, ——. Tythingman.

(Chelmsford Town Records.)

1693, Feb. 23. Death of his father Richard<sup>1</sup> Hildreth. His gravestone is in the old Forefathers' Burying Ground, Chelmsford, Mass.

(First Publication, Hildreth Family Association, p. 52.)

1693, May 19. Renders inventory of his father's estate.  
(Cambridge Probate Records.)

1693, May 26. His father's will probated, naming Ephraim as executor.

(Cambridge Probate Records.)

1693, Aug. 3. Death of his mother, Elizabeth Hildreth. Her gravestone is in Bell Rock Cemetery, Malden, Mass.

(First Publication, Hildreth Family Association, p. 50.)

1694, ——. Selectman.

(Chelmsford Records.)

1695, ——. Selectman.

(Chelmsford Records.)

1695, July 17. Chosen guardian by his nephew (aged 14) son of Lieutenant James<sup>2</sup> Hildreth.

(Cambridge Probate Records, Vol. 8, p. 746.)

1696, ——. Selectman.

(Chelmsford Records.)

1696, May 22. Birth of son Ebenezer at Chelmsford, Mass.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1696, Dec. 11. Death of his son James at Chelmsford, Mass.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1697, ——. Selectman.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1697, ——. Ephraim Hildreth, Captain Bowers, and  
Samuel Foster chosen committee by town of Chelmsford  
to draw up articles regarding making Robin's Hill a  
public sheep pasture. (NOTE: Robin's Hill adjoined  
Ephraim Hildreth's land.)  
(History of Chelmsford.)

1698, ——. Selectman.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1698, Dec. 23. Birth of son James at Chelmsford, Mass.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1699, ——. Selectman.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1700, ——. Grand Juryman for Chelmsford, Mass.  
(Court Records.)

1701, ——. Selectman.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1702, May —. Juryman for Chelmsford, Mass.  
(Court Records.)

—. Birth of son Jonathan. Date of birth not found  
on our records, but is called "well beloved son" in deeds;  
is also mentioned in his father's will, is made executor  
in his father's will and settles his father's estate.  
(Cambridge Probate Records.)

1703, ——. Selectman.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1705, Sept. 3. Birth of daughter Anna at Chelmsford, Mass.

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1705, ——. Chairman of Town Committee for laying out roads.

1706, ——. Chairman of Town Committee for laying out roads.

1706, ——. Selectman.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1707, ——. Chairman of Town Committee for laying out roads.  
(Chelmsford Town Records.)

1707, Sept 25. Birth of son Thomas at Chelmsford, Mass.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1707, Oct. 7. Death of son Thomas at Chelmsford, Mass.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1708, Nov. 20. Ephraim and wife Anna convey land in Dracut to beloved brother-in-law Jonathan Moore, of Lancaster, Mass.  
(Cambridge Probate Records, Vol. 16, p. 456.)

1709, ——. Selectman.  
(Chelmsford Town Records.)

1709, July 18. Birth of son Jacob at Chelmsford, Mass.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1710, ——. Ephraim, *Sr.*, and Ephraim, *Jr.*, both sign petitions in Chelmsford, Mass.  
(Court Records.)

1710, Sept. 19. On committee of five men how to finish new meeting house in Chelmsford.  
(History of Chelmsford.)

1710, ——. Selectman.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1711, ——. Selectman.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1711, Aug. 16. Birth of son David at Chelmsford, Mass.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1712, May 13. He conveys land in Chelmsford at Great Tadmuck to Joshua Fletcher.  
(Cambridge Probate Records, Vol. 17, p. 181.)

1712, July 1. On committee to seat new meeting house in Chelmsford.  
(History of Chelmsford.)

1718, ——. Receives land from William Fletcher as site for school house.  
(History of Chelmsford.)

1718, May 19. Voted room for a new pew on south side of meeting house.  
(Chelmsford Town Records.)

1718, Nov. 7. Highway in Chelmsford laid out from Tadmuck Road to Ephraim Hildreth's land.  
(History of Westford, p. 42.)

1719, Nov. 4. Highway laid out for West End families from Hart pond road through land of Ephraim Hildreth, *Sr.*  
(History of Chelmsford.)

1719, ——. Selectman.  
(History of Chelmsford.)

1720, ——. Ephraim Hildreth, *Sr.*, and *Jr.*, both on Chelmsford Tax List.  
(Hildreth Family Association data.)

1721, ——. Selectman.  
(Chelmsford Records.)

1722, ——. Selectman.  
(History of Chelmsford.)

1722, ——. Ephraim Hildreth, *Sr.* and *Jr.*, both on Chelmsford Tax List.  
(Hildreth Family Association data.)

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1723, ——. Ephraim Hildreth, *Sr.* and *Jr.*, both on Chelmsford Tax Lists.

(Hildreth Family Association data.)

1724, ——. Ephraim Hildreth, *Sr.* and *Jr.*, both on Chelmsford Tax List.

(Hildreth Family Association data.)

1724, Aug. 11. Ephraim Hildreth, of Chelmsford, husbandman, and wife Anna convey land in Chelmsford to their dutiful son James, of Chelmsford, husbandman.

(Cambridge Probate Records, Vol. 22, p. 626.)

1724, Aug. 11. Ephraim Hildreth and his wife Anna convey land to their dutiful son Joseph.

(Cambridge Probate Records, Vol. 33, p. 187.)

1724, Mch. 3. Ephraim, of Chelmsford, yeoman, and wife Anna convey land in Chelmsford to their dutiful son Ebenezer.

(Cambridge Probate Records, Vol. 29, p. 371.)

1724, Jan 4. Ephraim and his wife Anna, of Chelmsford, release to his brother-in-law Jonathan Moore, of Lancaster, Mass., all claims upon the Moore estate.

(Cambridge Probate Records, Vol. 26, p. 63.)

1726, Oct. 31. Highway laid out from Groton road through Aaron Parker's and within 3 rods of Joseph and Ephraim Hildreth's fence, thence to Tadmuck road.

(History of Westford, p. 38.)

1729, May 23. Ephraim and Anna his wife, of Chelmsford, Mass., convey land to his two well beloved sons Jonathan and Jacob, both of Chelmsford.

(Cambridge Probate Records, Vol. 33, p. 179.)

1729/30, Mch. 2. Ephraim Hildreth elected Surveyor of Highways at Westford, Mass., Town Meeting. (NOTE: Westford was a part of Chelmsford previous to 1729.

(History of Westford, p. 22.)

1730/31, Mch. 5. Ephraim Hildreth, of Westford, makes his will.

(Cambridge Probate Records, No. 7952.)

1731, April 5. Ephraim Hildreth, of Westford, dies.  
 (Westford-Chelmsford Register.)

1731, April 12. Ephraim Hildreth's will probated. (No. 1962 at Probate Office). Sons Jonathan and Jacob appointed executors. Property given to

Wife Anna  
 Dau. Anna Butterfield  
 Sons Joseph (the oldest)  
 Ebenezer  
 James  
 David (a minor in his 20th year)  
 Jonathan  
 Jacob

(NOTE: John Fletcher was made gdn. of David.)

1735, Feb. 5. Jonathan Hildreth, of Chelmsford, Mass., and Nathaniel Russell, of Littleton, Mass., give the following bond to support Anna Hildreth, widow of Ephraim:

"KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESANT that I Jonathan Hildreth, of Chelmsford in the county of Middx yeoman and Nathaniel Russell of Littleton in the county of Middx aforsed yeoman both in his Majesties province of the Massachusetts bay in New England are holden and stand firmly bound and obliged unto Anna Hildreth of Chelmsford in the county and province aforsed widdow, in the full and just sum of two hundred and fifty pounds currant lawful money of New England to be paid to the said Anna Hildreth or to her lawful attorney, heirs, executors, adaminstrators or assigns to the which payment well and truly to be don we bind ourselves heirs, executors, and adaminstrator and every one of them jointly and severly in the whole and for the whole firmly by these presants sealed with our seals dated this fifth day of February Anno Domini 1735.

The conditions of the above obligations is such yt if the above bounded Jonathan Hildreth or his heirs executors adaminstrators or any or either of them shall and do well and truly from time to time and at all times from year to year and every year annually begining the first day of December last past and so During the natural life of the above sd Hildreth pay the full and just sum of twelve pounds and ten shillings in good passable bills of this province or currant money as above sd to the above said Anna at or before the first day of December next ensuing the above sd date and the like every year yt the said Anna shall live and also find and procure the one half part of what shall be need full and necessary for the sd annas comfort in and when she shall be sick more than in the

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time of her health so long as she shall live and at the time of the sd Annas decees to be at the one half part of a decent Burrall and if the above bounded Jonathan shall and well and truly preform all the above sd article and to the true intent and meaning then the above obligation to be void and of none effect otherwise to stand and remain in full force strength and vertue.

Signed and sealed and delivered JONATHAN HILDRETH (seal)  
in the presance of NATHANEL RUSSELL (seal)  
SAMUALL COREY  
WILLIAM LAWERANCE

The following endorsements appear on the above bond:

Wesford December first day 1744 received the full sum to that day.

Wesford January ye 24, 1747 Then received of jonithan Hildreth twelve pounds ten shillings old tenor it being in full for the year 1745 of what was due on said bond for that year and for the time past till the year 1745.

Wesford June ye 1, 1749. Then received of Jonathan Hildreth in full of what was due upon the within bond for the time past to this present time.

Wesford April ye 2, 1750. Then received of Johnathan Hildreth in full what was due upon the within bond for the past to the present time.

(NOTE: Also see settlement of the estate of Jonathan Hildreth No. 7980.)

1752, April 7. Anna Hildreth, widow, of Chelmsford, Mass., conveys to Ephraim Hildreth land formerly belonging to Ephraim Hildreth, *Sr.*

(Cambridge Probate Records, Vol. 49, p. 427.)

1760, April 8. Ephraim Hildreth's widow, Anna (Moore) Hildreth, died (funeral held) April 8, 1760, ae 95, at Littleton, Mass.

(Hist. Littleton, Mass. Also see Chelmsford funerals.)

ABIGAIL<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH b. about 1656, probably in Chelmsford, Mass., daughter of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Hildreth, of Cambridge and Chelmsford, Mass., m. at Chelmsford, June 19, 1684, Moses Parker, of Chelmsford, b. about 1657 at Chelmsford, son of Abraham and Rose (Whitlock) Parker, of Woburn and Chelmsford, Mass., immigrant ancestors. Abraham Parker first settled in Charlestown, Mass., around 1635; about five years later he removed to Woburn, Mass.,

where in 1644 he m. Rose Whitlock; he resided in Woburn for about ten years and then removed to Chelmsford. In 1652/3, before removing to Chelmsford, Abraham Parker, Richard Hildreth, Robert Proctor and others petitioned for that tract of land which in 1653 became the Chelmsford grant. In 1678/9 Moses Parker and his brother Isaac and their father Abraham were accused of unlawfully selling "strong licker" to the Indians. They acknowledged doing it and bound themselves to the selectmen of Chelmsford not to do it again; but in 1684 the Court Records state that Moses and Abraham were again accused of the same offense. At this time the father, Abraham Parker, was an innholder at Chelmsford, and it is stated in the History of Westford, Mass., that Abraham's wife Rose was the first woman in Chelmsford to "bake and brew."

Moses Parker settled his father's estate in 1685, and in the same year his name is recorded in the Wamesit Purchase as one of the fifty proprietors of Chelmsford. In 1691/2 he was a member of Thomas Clarke's garrison in the West Regiment of Middlesex. In 1692 he received bounties from the town for killing ten or twelve wolves. In those days they used pine trees for making tar and turpentine, and Moses Parker was licensed to use 500 trees for this purpose. In 1702 the records show that he owned a 2-acre lot of land at the place where the apostle Eliot gathered the Indians together to teach them the principles of Christian religion. This place was then called the Wamesit Meeting Place Hill. In 1718 he contributed towards building the first school house in Chelmsford. In 1724 he was dissatisfied with the schoolmaster and petitioned with nine other freeholders for the schoolmaster's dismissal. His petition was granted.

On October 12, 1732, Moses Parker died at Chelmsford, Mass. As yet our Association has no further data regarding him or his wife, Abigail (Hildreth) Parker. They had seven (7) children, namely:

Abigail Parker,	b.	May 8, 1685,	at Chelmsford, Mass.
Moses Parker,	b.	Nov. 24, 1686,	" " "
Aaron Parker,	b.	Apr. 9, 1689,	" " "
Elizabeth Parker,	b.	Dec. 26, 1691,	" " "
Joseph Parker,	b.	Mch. 25, 1694,	" " "
Benjamin Parker,	b.	Apr. 14, 1696,	" " "
Mary Parker,	b.	Sept. 6, 1698,	" " "

The old Moses Parker homestead in Chelmsford, Mass., was the place lately owned by George Hutchins, according to Cutters' "Genealogies of Boston and Eastern Mass. Families."

JOSEPH<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. April 16, 1658, at Chelmsford, Mass., son of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Hildreth, of Cambridge and Chelmsford, m. at Woburn, Mass., Feb. 25, 1683 (25th of 12 mo. 1683), Abigail Wilson, daughter of John Wilson, of Woburn. She was b. at Woburn, Mass., August 8, 1666. Immediately after their marriage Joseph and his young wife settled in Chelmsford. In 1673 his father, Richard<sup>1</sup> Hildreth, had a little friction in the church at Chelmsford on account of his son-in-law, Robert Proctor, and threatened to move back to his old town, Cambridge, and take his family with him, as appears by Mr. Fiske's church records, viz.:

Jan. 18, 1673. "Richard Hildreth ha...d his dismission & of 3 of his children Joseph, Persis & Isaac, granted him to ye Ch. at Cambridge, according to his desire, he de...g his purpose of settle... there & of living and dying there."

But evidently he was later prevailed upon to remain in Chelmsford, for we find Joseph in 1676 was credited with military service in Chelmsford, in 1684 was surveyor of highways and in 1687 was fence viewer for the town. On March 16, 1691/2, Joseph is recorded as having charge of the Nashoba garrison in the West Regiment of Middlesex at Chelmsford, but his rank is not mentioned. In 1695, July 17, he was made guardian of his nephew Richard (son of Lieutenant James<sup>1</sup> Hildreth) who was then 17 years old. In 1697 (October 19) his name appears as Constable on a petition from Chelmsford to the General Court, and in the year 1700 he was elected Representative to the General Court. (History of Chelmsford, Mass.) Our Association has very few data concerning the activities of his civil life. He accumulated considerable property and died at Chelmsford, Mass., January 28, 1705/6.

His wife, Abigail (Wilson) Hildreth, was appointed administratrix of his estate May 10, 1706. She married (2) in 1707-8, Jonathan Barrett, of Chelmsford, and was Barrett's third wife. A partial distribution of the estate of Joseph<sup>2</sup> Hildreth was made July 15, 1713, by setting off the real estate as follows: to

widow, Abigail (now wife of Jonathan Barrett)  
 Joseph, oldest son  
 sons, John  
 Ephraim  
 daughters, Hannah, wife of Benj. Robbins  
 Abigail, wife of Thos. Chamberlain  
 Elizabeth, youngest child

The final settlement of the estate was not made until 1730-31. It was then signed by Joseph Hildreth, Ephraim Hildreth, Benj. Robbins and Abigail Chamberlain. No mention is made this time of either the widow or John or Elizabeth. As yet this Association has no data telling when the widow Abigail died, except that she was evidently living July 15, 1713, when the partial distribution of the estate was made.

Joseph<sup>2</sup> and Abigail (Wilson) Hildreth had twelve (12) children, namely:

Hannah <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Jan. 19, 1684,	at Chelmsford, Mass.
Joseph <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. May 18, 1686,	" "
Richard <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. " " "	" "
Abigail <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Mch. 8, 1687/8	" "
Abigail <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Oct. 20, 1691,	" "
Abigail <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. _____, 1693,	" "
Elizabeth <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Oct. 14, 1693/4,	" "
Joseph <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Nov. 30, 1695,	" "
John <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. June 9, 1698,	" "
Ephraim <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Aug. 25, 1700,	" "
Elizabeth <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. July 29, 1703,	" "
Benjamin <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. _____, _____,	" "

PERSIS<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. Feb. 8, 1659, at Chelmsford, Mass., daughter of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Hildreth of Cambridge and Chelmsford, Mass., m. at Chelmsford, May 23, 1682, Samuel Cleveland, b. June 9, 1657, at Woburn, Mass., son of Moses and Ann (Winn) Cleveland, of Woburn, immigrant ancestors.

Persis Hildreth was Samuel Cleveland's second wife. His first wife was Jane Keyes, b. Oct. 25, 1660, at Newbury, Mass., whom he m. May 17, 1680, at Chelmsford, and who died Nov. 14, 1681.

In 1675 Samuel Cleveland was credited with military services under Major Willard, and in 1676 he was credited with services at the garrison at Chelmsford. He bought land

in Chelmsford in 1681 on the east side of Tadmuck hill by the highway and was granted liberty to dam and flow the swamp. He resided in the "Stony Brook" valley section and was chosen fence viewer for the settlers there. On March 11, 1689/90, he was admitted Freeman to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Up to this time he and his family resided in Chelmsford, but soon after this he moved to Woburn, Mass., where his parents lived.

Around 1690, and for a few years after, there was quite a migration of families to Connecticut to found the new town now known as Canterbury. Samuel Cleveland was among them. But evidently he left his wife and children at Woburn while he was making ready their new home in Connecticut, because in Woburn, in 1693, his daughter Elizabeth was born, while in the same year on the Connecticut records we find his name mentioned, where he was called "Sergeant" Samuel. Previous to 1696 he moved his family to Plainfield (afterwards called Canterbury), Conn., where in June 1696 his daughter Mary was born.

His wife, Persis (Hildreth) Cleveland, died Feb. 22, 1698, at Canterbury, Conn., aged 39 years.

On July 25, 1699, he married at Canterbury his third wife, Mrs. Margaret Fish, widow of John Fish.

He had eight (8) children, as follows:  
By his first wife, Jane (Keyes):

Jane Cleveland, b. —— —, 1681, at Chelmsford, Mass.

By his second wife, Persis (Hildreth):

Persis Cleveland,	b. Apr. 21, 1683,	at Chelmsford,	Mass.
Samuel Cleveland,	b. Jan. 12, 1684,	" "	" "
Ephraim Cleveland,	b. Apr. 10, 1687,	" "	" "
Joseph Cleveland,	b. July 18, 1689,	" "	" "
Elizabeth Cleveland,	b. June 26, 1693,	" Woburn,	" "
Mary Cleveland,	b. June 14, 1696,	" Canterbury,	Conn.

By his third wife, Margaret (Fish):

*1699-1700 Canterbury, Feb 23, 1718.*  
Timothy Cleveland, b. Aug. 25, 1702, at Canterbury, Conn.

Our Association has no records giving the date of Samuel Cleveland's death.

ISAAC<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. July 20, 1661, at Chelmsford, Mass., son of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Hildreth, of Cambridge and Chelmsford, Mass., m. (according to the Chelmsford, Woburn and Middlesex marriage records) Nov. 12, 1685, Elizabeth Wilson, b. Aug. 6, 1668, at Woburn, Mass., daughter of John and —— Wilson, of Woburn. Isaac's name is mentioned January 18, 1673, on the Chelmsford church records as on that day having had granted him his dismissal with that of his brother Thomas and of his sister Persis and also that of his father to the church at Cambridge, Mass., where his father had proposed to go and settle, but later events show that his father evidently was prevailed upon to remain in Chelmsford. Presumably the son, Isaac, also remained.

Shortly after Isaac's marriage he and his young wife Elizabeth lived in Stow, Mass., where his brother Ephraim kept a tavern and owned a plantation. Here on June 14, 1687, Isaac's daughter Elizabeth was born. How long they resided in Stow our data at present do not tell, but evidently not more than three or four years because on November 25, 1691, at Woburn, Mass., another daughter, Persis, was born. During this period between 1687 and 1691 our data do not mention his name. Possibly when his brother-in-law, Samuel Cleveland, and others of his neighborhood were migrating to Connecticut where they founded the new town since called Canterbury he went with them. But if he did go to Connecticut he did not settle there, for we find that sometime previous to January 16, 1692, he acquired 60 or more acres of land in Cambridge, Mass., at a place locally known as "The World's End" or "Tophet Swamp," which on that date he and his wife Elizabeth deeded, stating they were "of ye towne of Cambridge," in exchange with James Wilson, of Woburn, Mass., for 50 acres of land with dwelling house, barn and orchard thereon, and a piece of meadow-land near Billerica line, but all in the town of Woburn.

(Camb. Deeds, Vol. 10, pp. 277-8.)

The deed in part reads as follows:

"... Isaac and Elizabeth Hildreth of ye towne of Cambridge,... exchange with James Wilson of Woburn...for and in consideration of fifty acres of land, be ye same more or less, and Dwelling House, with a Barn & Orchard standing and growing upon same. Also one half part of the piece of Meadow and swamp that lyeth upon Sto—(?) Brook, near Billerica line, both quantitie & quality; which

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meadow my father-in-law, John Wilson, had by way of exchange with Mr. Samuel Carter for a piece of meadow at a place called Salve (?) Meadow and three pounds in hand well and truly paid by James Wilson of ye town of Woburn aforesaid, husbandman,—All which land and Meadow lyeith in ye Towne of Woburn, joining to ye Land called the Wyman Farm—convey to said James Wilson a parcel of land by estimation three score acres & lyeith in ye town of Cambridge at a place called the Worlds End or Tophet Swamp...."

ISAAC HILDRETH

January 16, 1692.

ELIZABETH HILDRETH

(NOTE: The Cambridge records show that James Wilson later conveyed his Cambridge purchase of "Isaac Hildreth" to William Brattle, of Cambridge, March 27, 1694.)

In 1696 Isaac was residing in Woburn, for in that year we find Samuel Allen, of Cambridge, Mass., conveys to "Isaac Hildreth of Woburn, Mass., " land in Charlestown, Mass. (Camb. Records, Vol. 15, p. 27). But not long after this, Isaac with his wife and family moved to Chelmsford and evidently settled there. In Chelmsford on Aug. 1, 1698, his son Isaac<sup>3</sup> was born. (NOTE: This son, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, was later called "Isaac Jr., " also "Isaac of Petersham.") From this time on we find Isaac's name as of Chelmsford on various records. In 1710 he conveys land in Chelmsford to Ezra Colburn, of Chelmsford. In 1721 he and his wife Elizabeth convey land in Chelmsford to their "son, Isaac Hildreth, Jr., husbandman." In 1720, '22, '23, '24, his name is on the Chelmsford Tax Lists jointly with that of Isaac Hildreth, Jr. Isaac Hildreth, the father, d. April 15, 1730, at Chelmsford, Mass. His widow, Elizabeth (Wilson) Hildreth, d. January 4, 1743. Her funeral, according to the Chelmsford church records, was held January 9, 1743. Our data do not as yet state where either was buried. Isaac<sup>2</sup> and Elizabeth (Wilson Hildreth) had five (5) children, viz.:

Elizabeth <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. June 14, 1687, in Stow,	Mass.
Persis <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Nov. 25, 1691, " Woburn,	"
Joanna <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Nov. 16, 1695, " "	"
Isaac <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Aug. 1, 1698, " Chelmsford,	"
Sarah <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b. Nov. 21, 1700, " "	"

THOMAS<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. Feb. 1, 1661, at Chelmsford, Mass., son of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Hildreth, of Cambridge and Chelmsford, Mass., d. May 28, 1662, at Chelmsford, Mass. (See Chelmsford Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths.)

NOTE: Questions have been raised as to which was the younger child, Isaac or Thomas. Our Association has the dates of their births as follows:

Isaac<sup>2</sup> b. July 20, 1661

Thomas<sup>2</sup> b. Feb. 1, "

If these dates are correct there is no question but what Thomas was the younger child, his birth being some six or seven months after that of Isaac. This is accounted for by the "Old Style" year in which March was the first month, April the second month, and so on, making February the twelfth month. The "New Style" year in which January came into use as the first month did not begin until 1752. (See Acts and Laws of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, A. D. 1751.)

The following four (4) Hildreths are of the "LONG ISLAND" FAMILY, and care should be taken in placing too much reliance on the data given here pertaining to them. Howell, in his "History of Southampton, L. I.", says they are of the second generation and are children of Thomas<sup>1</sup> and Hannah Hildreth, of Southampton (L. I.), N. Y. Howell was one of the most careful of historians, but he was unable to find many important names and dates pertaining to the Long Island Hildreths of the first three generations. It is to be hoped that many of the uncertainties can be cleared up in the near future and that all important changes and additions to dates and names will then be established beyond doubt. The following data have been furnished our Association as being taken mostly from Howell, namely:

JOSEPH<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. about 1657, probably at Southampton (L. I.), N. Y., and supposed to be son of Thomas<sup>1</sup> and Hannah Hildreth, of Southampton, m. Sept. 11, 1678, Hannah Jessup, daughter of John Jessup. Joseph<sup>2</sup> Hildreth was the ancestor of most of the Southampton Hildreths. He is given as the eldest son of Thomas<sup>1</sup> and Hannah Hildreth, and our records state that he d. at Southampton, N. Y., in 1735, aged 78 years, which would place the date of his birth around 1657, *the same year that his father, Thomas<sup>1</sup> Hildreth, died.* This has caused a question to be raised, namely: If this Joseph was the oldest of four children, could their father have died the same year Joseph was born? Obviously not. Either there are errors in dates, or confusion in names, or possibly there may have been another Thomas or James or Joseph between. As yet our Association has no records

telling when Hannah (Jessup) Hildreth, the wife of Joseph<sup>2</sup> Hildreth, died. According to Howell's history they had nine (9) children, namely:

Joseph <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b.	July 27, 1679,	at Southampton, N. Y.
Benjamin <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b.	Sept. 22, 1681,	" " "
Nathan <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b.	Mch. 17, 1684/5,	" " "
Ephraim <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b.	_____, 1689,	" " "
Daniel <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b.	_____, _____,	" " "
Jonathan <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b.	_____, _____,	" " "
Joseph <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b.	_____, _____,	" " "
John <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b.	probably 1702,	" " "
Isaac <sup>3</sup> Hildreth,	b.	_____, _____,	" " "

The first Hildreth homestead on Long Island, the one where Thomas<sup>1</sup> Hildreth first lived, is said to have been at Flying Point, and this homestead was inherited by the above Joseph<sup>2</sup> Hildreth, he who married Hannah Jessup.

HANNAH<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. probably at Southampton (L. I.), N. Y., and said in Howell's to be a daughter of Thomas<sup>1</sup> and Hannah Hildreth. As yet our Association has no further data concerning her. She may have died young, or she may have grown up and married and had a family.

JAMES<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. probably at Southampton (L. I.), N. Y., and said in Howell's to be a son of Thomas<sup>1</sup> and Hannah Hildreth. As yet we have no further data as to the time or place of his birth or of his death. He married and probably resided awhile in Southampton and then moved to Bridgehampton (L. I.), N. Y., where he settled. According to Howell most of the Bridgehampton Hildreths descended from this James<sup>2</sup> Hildreth. Our Association has no data concerning his wife or her name, and we have record of only one (1) child, namely:

James<sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b. \_\_\_\_\_, at Bridgehampton, N. Y.

This son James<sup>3</sup> Hildreth married and raised a family of boys and girls.

PETER<sup>2</sup> HILDRETH, b. probably at Southampton (L. I.), N. Y., and stated in Howell's history to be a son of Thomas<sup>1</sup>

and Hannah Hildreth. As yet we are unable to find any further records concerning the date of his birth, marriage or death. Howell states he married and settled in or near Sag Harbor and had one (1) child, namely:

Peter<sup>3</sup> Hildreth, b. ——, at ——.

This Peter<sup>3</sup> Hildreth married and raised a family of boys and girls.

Cambridge, Mass.

1917.





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